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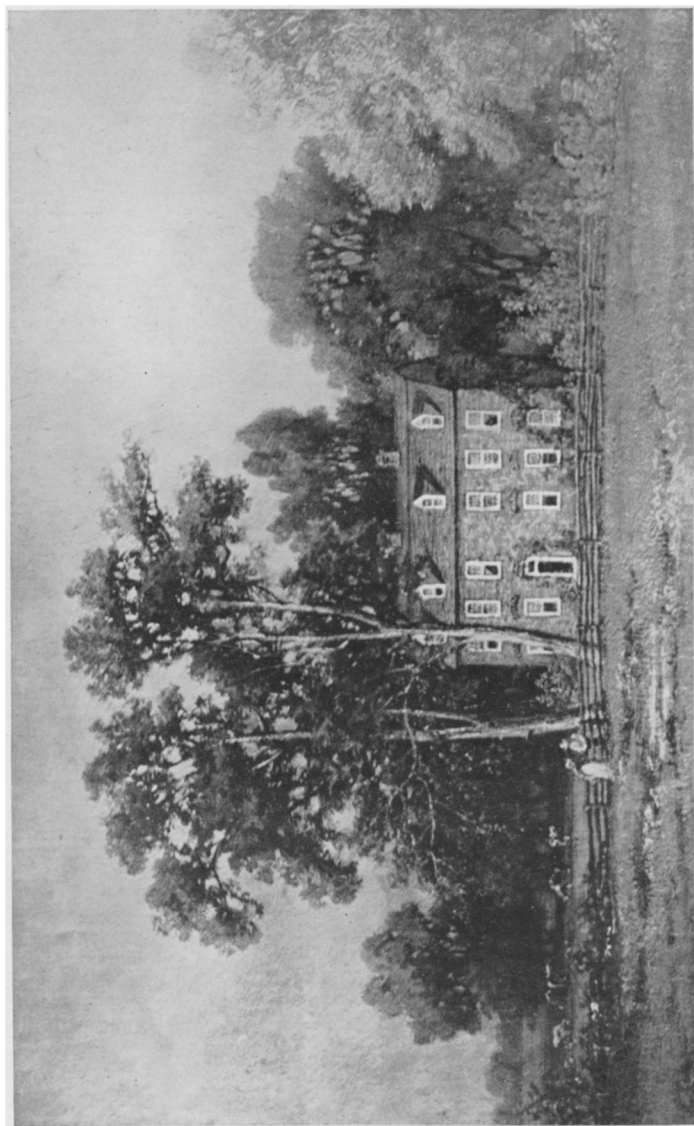
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GRÆME PARK
FROM PAINTING IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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No. 3.

SOME MATERIAL FOR A BIOGRAPHY OF MRS.
ELIZABETH FERGUSON, *née* GRÆME.

BY SIMON GRATZ.

Of the few women who attracted public attention during the Revolutionary war, Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson is one of the best known. Her family position, literary tastes and personal charms ensured her a leading place in the social circle; but the chances are that she would be no better remembered to-day than others of her sex who had like attractions and accomplishments, save for the unfortunate notoriety which attached to her from the fact that she was the bearer of the letter written by Rev. Jacob Duché to General Washington, in October 1777, urging him to take the lead in bringing about an adjustment of the dispute with Great Britain, which should lead to a reconciliation with a return to the old allegiance. It is highly probable that, if she did not do this in ignorance of the contents of the letter, she had no thought of doing any injury to the Patriot cause—a cause to which most, if not all, of her closest friends were devoted.

Her husband, Henry Hugh Ferguson, was in Philadelphia at this time; and a letter from him to her,

given among the papers that follow in this notice, seems to warrant the belief that it was his influence, either exclusively or in large part, that induced her to be the bearer of the letter in question. He was not, at this time, in the British service in any capacity whatever; and, according to his wife's statement in her Petition [hereinafter given] to the Assembly of Pennsylvania, he was "totally unconnected with the British army as to service or appointment until the month of November following (1777), when he was induced to accept the post of Commissary of Prisoners."

For many years afterwards, and until she received a practical exculpation at the hands of the Assembly of Pennsylvania, she was an unhappy sufferer from the consequences of a thoughtless act.

In the year 1779 she appealed to the Council of Pennsylvania not to allow the sale of her property—a little estate left her in fee simple by her father—in consequence of her husband's right by marriage; but the appeal was denied and the estate confiscated. Redoubling her efforts to save her small patrimony, a host of influential friends came to her assistance; and in 1781 the Assembly of Pennsylvania exempted her from the provisions of the Act passed at the session of 1780, directing the immediate sale of all confiscated estates. As she says in her Petition praying for such exemption: "The depriving her of the farm is at once to destroy the sole support of one who will not be found to have deserved ill at their [the Assembly's] hands, if the best wishes, the most uniform declarations, and the constant train of little services which her sphere of action has enabled her to perform are of any avail in evincing it." And the Act itself makes the following personal reference to her: "The said Elizabeth appears to have acted a friendly part to the cause of the United States and to be in such a peculiar

situation as to deserve the protection and indulgence of this Commonwealth.”

Her staunchest supporters, in her efforts to save her property from sale as the confiscated estate of her husband, were such leading patriots as James Wilson, Thomas Mifflin, George Clymer, Robert Morris, John Dickinson, Thomas FitzSimons, Elias Boudinot, and many others of distinction.

The chief interest in the letters given in connection with this brief foreword pertains to those relating to her love affair with William Franklin, afterwards Colonial Governor of New Jersey. His letters, taken in connection with those written to her by her father and mother show that, after a strong attachment had existed between them for several years, their engagement was suddenly broken, for reasons not disclosed. The cause of this break can only be conjectured from the correspondence that is given. Her father, Dr. Thomas Græme, writing to her on January 1, 1763, tells her that in time she will “be thankful to that good Providence that would not admit so much truth and innocence to be allayed [allied] to so deep deceit and light vanity;” and that, when reason brings her back to its test, she “will soon discover the insidious paths of a Deceiver in every step taken since that person left this place.”

Her mother, writing to her on December 3, 1762, says her father thanked God she had escaped him (Franklin). The plain inference is that Franklin, separated from her by his visit to England, had been thrown into attractive female society in London, and that under this influence his affection for Miss Græme had grown cold, another fair one stepping into the place she had filled. On September 4, 1762, a few days after he had received the appointment of Governor of New Jersey, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Downes, at St. George’s Church, Hanover Square, London.

Very different was the effect upon Miss Græme of the breaking of the ties that had bound her to Franklin. It brought her great distress of mind; distress which, during a struggle of several years, she seems to have been unable to overcome. At length she yielded to persuasions to seek a complete change of scene and surroundings as a cure for her despondencies.

Rev. Richard Peters, the rector of Christ Church, and a personal friend of hers and her family, invited her to accompany him on a lengthy visit to England. She accepted the invitation, and appears to have had a pleasant sojourn in London in 1764 and 1765, and to have returned to America in the latter part of 1765, much improved in health and spirits.

The accompanying papers give no hint of the circumstances of her marriage to Mr. Fergusson. It occurred at Old Swede's Church April 21, 1772.

Her separation from her husband, after he had been attainted and proscribed in 1778, was final; and thenceforth, until her death in 1801, she led a quiet life at Græme Park, devoting herself to offices of charity and to perfecting her translation of Fénélon's "Télémaque" into heroic verse.¹

William Franklin to Elizabeth Græme.

Saturday Morn^g ½ after 9

Thou dear Tormentor!

Your most agreeable vexatious little Billet occasioned me more Pleasure and Uneasiness than I chuse to oblige you with the Pain of Hearing at present—Well, but about these plaguy Parsons! One, yesterday, you say? Yes;—but pray how many to Day? Nay, How many to-morrow? Confound 'em all, I'd like to have said. Sure I am, that I shall no longer remain a Sceptic to the opinion of many wise Men "that the Clergy have in all Ages done more Mischief than Service in the World." There's only *one Thing* in their Power that can ever

¹ Her MS. translation of the Book 22, 112 pp. is preserved among the Gratz Manuscripts, Manuscript Division, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



ELIZABETH FERGUSSON

FROM COPY OF MINIATURE IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, née Graeme. 261

induce me to change this Sentiment, or make me Amends for their past Conduct. Guess what that *one Thing* is. Didn't I fortell that I should not see you again till Monday; and, accordingly, so you, or my ill Stars, have contriv'd it. Be assur'd that, unless you find some Means to prove me a *false Prophet*, I will—What will I? Why I will, that I will—wish you had a *W I L L of your own*; and then I am sure it will not be in the Power of either D—ls or Parsons to keep us asunder—

I am much concern'd that your dear Mamma's Indisposition continues. That her Recovery may be speedy, and her Days of long and happy Duration, is the sincere Prayer of, dear Betsey,

Your affectionate

Will. Franklin

Feb. 26, 1757

P.S. I send some Worm-seed for Mrs. Young's Baby. Couldn't you contrive to give some to the Parsons? Who knows but it might *worm* them out of the House?

William Franklin to Elizabeth Graeme.

New-York April 25, 1757.

Is this possible! Can such dire Revenge dwell in so fair a Breast? Two Posts, and three Gentlemen, from Philad^a and not a single Iota from my Betsy! all this too for accidentally missing *one* Opportunity of Writing!—But I won't complain. I won't mention a Syllable of my Uneasiness. Should she know what I suffer it would only serve as an additional Motive for persevering in her late extraordinary Conduct; and afford her a greater Pleasure than she is intitled to receive from my Hands at present.

Thanks to my Stars the Post is just agoing, and now stands at my Elbow impatiently waiting for this Letter. I might otherwise, perhaps, have fill'd the whole Sheet with earnest Intreaties that you would once more oblige me with the Pleasure of hearing from you. But as That in all Probability would have been a sufficient Inducement for your not writing at all, remember I do not say I desire you to send one Scrape of a Pen to

Your too fond

Franklin

To Miss Graeme

William Franklin to Elizabeth Graeme.

N. York, May 2, 1757.

My dear Betsy.

Immediately upon the Receipt of the Silken Chain you were so kind as to send me, away flew the Steel one I before had in possession. Who is the Enroacher now Betsy? Not contented with having bound my Soul to you by indissolveable Ties, must every Moveable about me also wear your Fetters? But harkee, Madam; Be pleased to remember that

since you have thus seiz'd and secur'd the only *Watch* I ever kept, you ought, in Justice, not to look upon me as accountable for any future *Movements*.

Instead of an evil Genius, as you Mention, guiding my Pen to distress you, I can never sit down to write to my Betsy, but some evil Genius or other is at my Elbow to prevent me. I was just agoing to tell you how rejoic'd I was to hear of your Recovery, when in comes the Bermudas Colonel, talking, dancing and singing from one End of the Room to the other, and swears he will not stir till I dress and go out with him. This I find there is no avoiding; but I am determin'd to slip him presently, and search for Mrs. Abercrombie, who I am told is just arriv'd here with her Husband. I shall then have the Pleasure of talking of my Betsy, which is the only Thing at this Distance that can compensate for the Interruption which has happen'd to

Your affectionate

W^m Franklin.

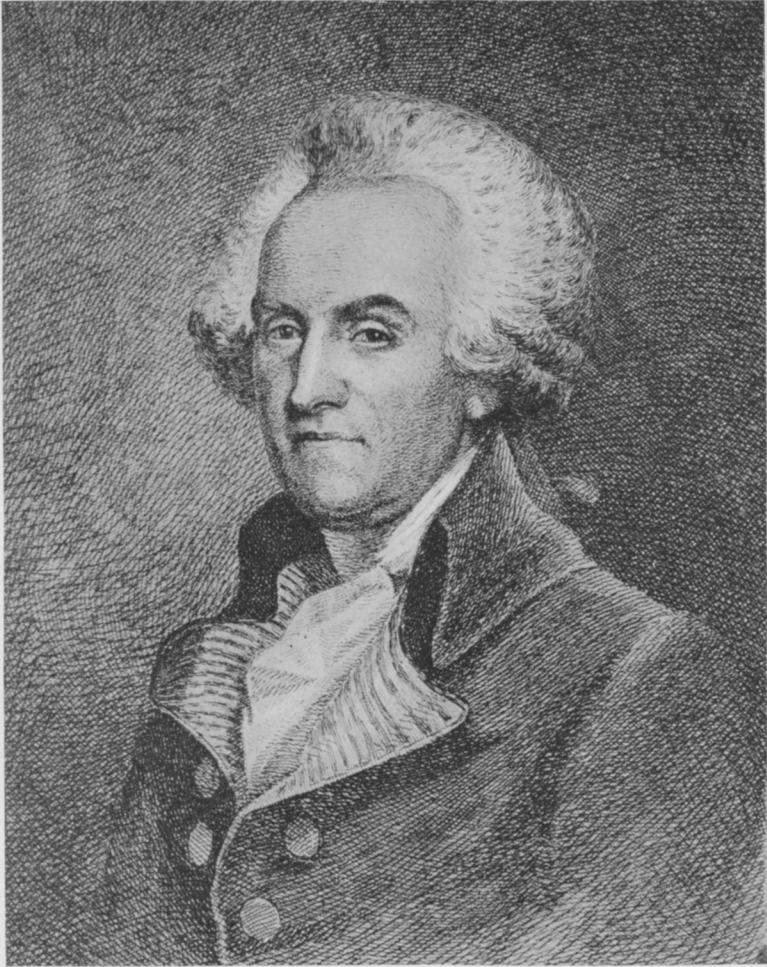
For Miss Græme.

William Franklin to Elizabeth Græme.

New York, May 16, 1757

My dear Betsy—

You know by this Time the Reason of your not hearing from me by one of last Weeks Posts. Our Stay here was so tedious that my Father determin'd upon a little Excursion in the Jerseys. Our Party consisted of some Gentlemen and Ladies of this Place, and my Mother and Sister, who had come to Woodbridge in Expectation of spending a few Days with my Father before his Departure. Our Ride was to Newark, Passayak Falls, and to Col. Schuyler's Copper Mines. The Face of the Country, its many Improvements, the Variety of romantic Prospects which almost everywhere abound afforded me far greater Pleasure than any Thing I had ever seen before. Indeed I had not the least Idea that Views so agreeably enchanting were to be met with in America. I shall not attempt a Description of them. 'Tis not in my power to do them Justice. Besides, I propose to myself an infinite deal of Satisfaction in accompanying you thither on my Return from England. I a Thousand Times wish'd you present, and fancied to myself the Raptures you would be in, and the Observations you would make on beholding Scenes so delightful—Indeed, Betsy, you need be under no apprehensions that I shall ever lose my Relish for Things of this Nature. 'Tis true my Engagements in the Busy World do at present take up a great Share of my Attention, but the Happiness which flows from Retirement and a Country Life is the main Scope of all my Wishes. If you would consider what a Number of People I must necessarily correspond with while I continue engag'd in Publick Business, you could not but excuse my Letters being Sometimes rather of the shortest. If a double Portion of writing has fallen to your Share, be pleas'd to remember you have also more than a double Portion of Leisure. As it



WILLIAM FRANKLIN

COPY OF ETCHING BY ALBERT ROSENTHAL

is, however, I have wrote at least 4 letters to you for one that I have wrote to any other Person, and I have not omitted writing to you but by one Post since my Departure. Be assur'd, my dear Betsy, that I want not the strongest Impulse to write to you by every Opportunity; and I hope you will do me the Justice to believe that altho' an Omission may sometimes happen, it is not owing to any Change in my Regard.

I can scarce forgive your not coming with the Miss Willings. If you could conceive what I feel by being detain'd so long within two days Journey of you, without the Power of paying you one Visit, least the Pacquet should be order'd to sail, I think out of mere Compassion you would not have miss'd seeing N. York when so convenient opportunity offer'd. I have just heard that two of the Pacquets are likely to sail this Week. We shall go in the last. My best Respects to our good Mamma. I shall write to her before I go, if possible. I am, dearest Betsy,

Your affectionate

W. Franklin

P.S. Please to let me know, if you can, the occasion of the Letter to Dr. Chandler being made publick. I have wrote in such Haste that I don't know a word I've said.

William Franklin to Elizabeth Græme.

London Oct^r 24, 1758

Madam—

I am just return'd from a Tour thro' great Part of the Country of England, in which I have unexpectedly been absent several months. I found at my Lodgings, among other Letters, one from Miss Graeme of May the 7th in Answer to mine of the 9th of December, which I believe has been lying there many Weeks, owing to my having left Orders that none should be forwarded to me, as it was very uncertain where I should be from time to time, and they might possibly miscarry.

From frequent observations on the Uncertainty of Human Affairs, I thought I had acquir'd a Habit of not being surpriz'd at any Thing, however unexpected. But the Perusal of that Letter soon convinc'd me that all my boasted Fortitude was purely imaginary. I flew to the well known superscription with an Eagerness scarcely equal'd [great as it is] by That of a fond Mother flying to the Relief of her distress'd Infant. But how shall I paint my Situation, how describe my Disappointment, when, instead of a Continuance of kind affectionate Declarations, I found it fill'd with harsh and cruel Reflections!—Reflections, which, I believe, her most partial Friends cannot say that such a letter as mine could occasion or deserve.

Some Reproof for my seeming Neglect of writing I acknowledge I merited. It would have even afforded me a kind of Pleasure to have been a little roughly handled on that Point. I should have look'd upon it as a corroborating Circumstance of her Regard. I call it a *seeming*

Neglect, for in Reality it was no other. I was ever a bad Correspondent: England has made me much more so; and I believe has generally the same Effect upon young Strangers. Scarce a Letter have I receiv'd from America but what contains Complaints against me on that Head. To none other than Miss G. have I wrote when Business of some sort or other did not necessarily oblige me. One of my Friends has considered this Conduct of mine in its proper Light. After telling me "Some took it amiss that I had only wrote a few Lines to them, when they had wrote so many very long Letters to me," he says, "I know London is a very bad Place to write in, it being so hard to spare Time from the innumerable Pleasures and Allurements that surround one; therefore I can excuse you more readily perhaps than those who were never there. And altho' Nobody receives a Line from you with greater Joy than myself, yet I had rather forego that Satisfaction than you should lose a Friend or any interesting Intelligence from Pennsylvania." These are Sentiments dictated by Friendship only. Love, one would think, might at least have shown as much Indulgence. But how great the Reverse! In my Letter [to which hers is an Answer] I very amply set forth my Situation with regard to writing, apologiz'd for not having wrote oftener, and beg'd some Allowance might be made for my future Conduct in that respect. Yet, notwithstanding she must be fully sensible from the whole Tenor of that Letter, that my Affection was in no wise Abated, she makes it, or would seem to make it, a sufficient Foundation for concluding my Love for her was changed; and for accusing me of "want of Generosity in not having frankly told her that my own Levity of Temper, or my Father's Schemes, or my Attachment to a Party, prevented my persevering in the tender Passion that I had professed." Had this really been the Case, she should have had no Cause for such an Accusation. But she must, she cannot but know the contrary. This Charge therefore can only be introduc'd to justify that entire Change of Sentiments in herself, which appears throughout all her Letter. If the Regard she once acknowledg'd for me was not wholly obliterated, could she have told me that "she is not of that *humble* nay abject Temper which she must be, could she look upon *me* as the Person that was to share her Pains and Pleasures during her future Life?" Could she to me have call'd the Man, whom she knew to be next her in my heart, "a collection of Party Malice"? Or could she, after determining me to be "*in every Point*" a strong Party Man, tell me "that neither the *Judgment* or *Morals* of a Person can be pure when he is that in the "full Extent of the Word"? No, she could not. It is impossible for Love to harbour such Thoughts, or dictate such Expressions. There can be no Remains of Affection where they appear. But, good G—d! where was the Necessity of this harsh Treatment? If "Time [as she says] had shewn her it would be *Folly*, nay *Madness*, to think of running all Risques with me," would not her plainly and candidly telling me so have been alone sufficient? We were not engag'd to each other at all events. On the contrary we mutually promis'd that in case of any Change of Sentiment, or that either should think the Obstacles to our

propos'd Happiness insurmountable, to give immediate Notice of such Change or Opinion. Its true, as Mrs. G. was so condescending as to say she would consent to her Daughter's waiting for one Twelve month to see if Matters could be settled agreeable to our Inclinations, I look'd upon myself as engag'd to her during that Time; and no Consideration on Earth should have induc'd me to think of marrying another—Nor do I believe that, as long as she remain'd single, and I had Reason to think her Affection for me continu'd, aught but dire Necessity would have suffer'd me to entertain the least Thought of giving myself to any other Woman—

I find, however, Nothing in myself of the Disposition of the fabled Dog in the Manger. To see her happy with another would give me more Pleasure than not to see her happy. I have not therefore, even to my most intimate Acquaintance, even mentioned that there was any Thing particular between us, lest by being known it might in some Measure have prevented her having Offers to her Advantage. And I was determin'd that as soon as I saw there was little or no Likelihood of our coming together, I would acquaint her with it immediately, lest she might be prevented from accepting of those Offers.

It has been my constant Wish and Endeavour ever since my Arrival to have our public Differences conciliated. I look'd upon them as the Bane of my future Happiness as well as that of my Country. Even the Paper I printed in the Citizen, which seems to have given her so much Displeasure, was partly wrote with that View. I was in Hopes when the Proprietors found that the little dirty Aspersions they were continually publishing were once fully answered and expos'd, and they could not avail themselves any farther of such low contemptible Arts, they would be the more readily inclin'd to listen to Proposals for a friendly Adjustment of the Matters in Dispute. And till of late I really flattered myself that our Difficulties were not so great but that they might be got over. Now, indeed, I cannot say there is the least Prospect they ever will. The Proprietors Behaviour in the Affair of Moore & Smith, wherein they publicly abetted that Attack upon the Privileges of the Assembly, and their conduct since that Time, having I find made my Father lay aside all Thoughts of an amicable Accommodation. Of this disagreeable Situation of Affairs I should by this Vessel have inform'd Miss G. agreeable to my promise, and have endeavour'd to persuade her to forget the Man who in all Probability could never have it in his Power to be so happy as to contribute to her Happiness. That, however, it seems is now unnecessary; and I, only I, have to learn Forgetfulness.

No one can more readily excuse this change in Miss G. than myself. That same *Time* she speaks of is to be sure a wonderful Worker of such Alterations. My Apprehensions of this made me, before I left America, wish and press to put it out of his Power to have that Effect on either of us. I knew if we were once united we should never indulge a Thought of any beside. Being separate we were liable to have some *Ignis Fatuus* or other lead our Affections astray. From my opinion of the Parity

of our Tempers and Dispositions I believ'd it impossible that I could be happier with another, and I was not willing to run the Risque of being less happy. 'Twas therefore that I would have guarded against all Accidents by being privately marry'd. This, however, was objected to as improper, and I was told that it was best to defer every Thing of that Kind till I return'd from England, when perhaps Affairs might be so settled as not to need such a Procedure. I acquiesc'd, but withal could not help mentioning my Fears of what might happen. It was then said that I need be under no Apprehensions, that her Regard for me could by either Time or Absence be set aside or diminish'd. I at length began to please myself with the Thoughts that this might be the case. As I knew her superior to most of her Sex in many other Respects, I imagin'd she might be in this likewise.

It is, perhaps, natural for Persons at her Time of Life to be more susceptible of the tender Passion of Love than those of more advanc'd years; and that very Susceptibility may prevent those soft Impressions having any long Duration. What are caus'd by one object, it may be, are then easily to be effac'd by another. I, perhaps, altho' but a few years older, may have reach'd that Stage which, tho' not quite so liable to receive those Impressions, may yet retain them longer when once receiv'd. How this may be I won't undertake to determine. But I am at a Loss otherwise to account for so great an Alteration in her and none in myself. For not only Time and Absence, but an infinite Variety of new Objects, have fallen to my Share without producing this Effect.

But tho' the Slightness of the Foundation I built upon is now fully discover'd, I am far from blaming her on that Account. If I take any Thing amiss, it is the Manner, not the cause, of my Dismission. Methinks I was intitled to a civil one at least. Invective can surely add no Dignity to her Character. As *humble* and *abject* as she would now look upon herself, should she take me for her Partner in Life, there was a Time I believe when you knew she thought otherwise. As much *Malice* as she may think my Friend possesses, I know him to have more Delicacy of Sentiment than to speak so disrespectfully to me of any one for whom he had Reason to think I had a particular personal Esteem. As greatly "*vitiating*" as she may deem my *Judgment* and *Morals*, I had never so much reason to call the Goodness of the latter in question, as I now have to call That of the former. I before judg'd it impossible that she, of all women, could have descended to — Even now [so bad may be my Judgment] I cannot help thinking, notwithstanding I have been honour'd here with an Intimacy with several Ladies of distinguish'd Rank and Merit, that she excells them all in many amiable Qualities. But perhaps I am wrong in finding Fault with her Behaviour in this Respect. Might she not [as, of all situations, *Loving where one is not beloved* is the most grievous] out of mere Humanity put on an Appearance so very different from her natural Sweetness of Disposition; thinking that when I found what principally attracted me had fled its usual Habitation, my Love would not long remain behind?

If this was her Motive, Gratitude alone gives her a Right to my most cordial Thanks. She could not indeed have fall'n upon a more effectual Method of bringing me to the same State of Indifference with herself.

Sometimes I imagine that she may have been prompted by her Friends to treat me in this Manner. But when I consider the repeated Acts of Civility I have received from them all, particularly from that best of Women Mrs. G. I cannot suffer such a Thought to continue. Be it as it will, there were certainly *Prudential Considerations* enough to be offered in Excuse for her not persevering in the Passion she profess'd, without her deviating so far from her accustom'd Politeness. So great is my Vanity, I cannot think it would have lessen'd her too much to have permitted me the Satisfaction of looking upon her as a Friend, when she could no longer look upon me in a Light more tender.

The contemptuous Reception she gave a small Present I sent her, particularly the Muff and Tippet, which, tho' worn by People of the first Fashion in England, she sneeringly treats as a "*gawdy Gewgaw*," must be owing, I suppose, either to her being anxious to take all opportunities of shewing I held not the least Remains in her Esteem, or that she thinks it somewhat presumptuous in me to make her any Present at all. As to the latter, I could not think I acted amiss as I had, before I left N. York, receiv'd a Present from her of a Silken Watch-String of her own Weaving. In the Light, therefore, of common Exchange of Civilities, she was intitled to Something from me in Return. But I must confess I had a tenderer Motive for sending her a Muff. As she was often pleas'd to liken me to Tom Jones, and express herself much delighted with the Story of Sophia's Muff mentioned in that Novel, I could not help flattering myself that This might, in the same Manner, tend to raise or keep alive some Soft Emotions in my Favour. But now, alas, I see there is no intrinsic Merit in a Muff. It can have no avail where a Sophia's Breast is wanting. . .²

*Margaret Abercrombie to Ann Græme.*³

Dearest Madam

This morning I received a very long Epistle from Mr Franklin and as the whole purport of it is reletive to Dear Miss Greeme wrote with a Desige to be Communicated I would have waited on you with it But my Presant Situation of affairs you are already acquainted Dear madam wont admit off my being from home Therefore must beg youll Excuse

² The remainder of the letter is missing. The man whom he speaks of as being "next her in my heart," was, according to a memorandum (on the letter), in Miss Græme's handwriting, Joseph Galloway.

³ *Margaret Abercrombie* was wife of Capt. James Abercrombie; she married 2d Charles Stedman, whose first wife was Anne, a sister of Mrs. Fergusson.

Ann (Diggs) Græme, wife of Dr. Thomas Græme, parents of Mrs. Fergusson.

268 *Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, née Graeme.*

my Deficiancey in that point of Respect which I am Sensible is Due to you & desire if agreeable to See you here as the Contents will remain in Secret til I have your Orders & Opinion on the Sentiments. After apoligizing for giving you this trouble allow me the honour off Assuring you Dearest Madam that I am with all imaginable Esteem & Respect Your most Sincere

friend & Obed^t Hble Serv^t
Marg^t Abercrombie

April y^e 4. 1759.

[In handwriting of Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson.]

Recv^d the day 2 yrs I parted with Mr Franklin.

E. Fr.

Eliza Stedman to Elizabeth Graeme.

Graeme Park August 21st 1761.

My Dear Miss Betsy

You Should take care not to raise my vanity too much as it may be very troublesome to you and often take up your time to Little purpose but I am very much obliged to Miss Graeme for Encourising me Still to write on and will only beg her with pations to take the Consequences. I was extremely Sorry when I heard M^r Willing was so ill as to prevent there coming up he would be a great Loss indeed to that Fammily and poor Miss Nancey I know not what would become of her but I hope he will git better and that Soon for all there Sakes.

My Aunt desiers me to Let you know that She does not intend to go to Bethlaham this Year as my Aunt Sandy Stedman cant go I hope I need not Say how glad we Shall be to See you here and as Soon as aggreable to your Self, to Say more would imply a doubt of your Word all thoe My Aunt can hardly be perswad you intend it. the Weather has been very warm here notwithstanding I have been obliged to Sit down every night to the card table it has been Some comfort to me that the doctor is a coming up as he will be a releafe to me but dont imagine thats the only reason I should be glad to See him for. I hope M^{rs} Graeme continues to mend in health My Respectfull Compliments attends her. Please to remember me kindly to the Children and this concludes me your obliged

humble Servent and Sincere
Friend
Eliza Stedman.

Eliza Stedman to Elizabeth Graeme.

Graeme Park, August 7th 1762

My Dear Miss Graeme

I am just returned from waiting on M^{rs} Campbell part of Her way home after a most agreeable weak wich wanted nothing to render it Compleatly happy but the addision of Your Company wich has been often wish'd for but there are Seldom pleasurs with an alloy and its



ANN GRÆME

best to conclude with Mr. Pope that what ever is—is right I was extremely Pleased Yesterday to hear by Mr. Hopkinson You were so much better but am under some apprehensions Least these fine Evenings Should tempt You to ramble in the Garden too much for the delicacy of Your Constitution but I will not Preach on so disagreeable a Subject as Self denial and more especially as I cannot Set an Example. I find you have heard from M^r Fenwick I pity him from my heart the Shock must have been very great on finding his Mother dead He appeared to be very Affectionate and proposed much pleasure in Seeing his Mother and to be so disappointed was very hard that it may be Long before You meet with anything of the like nature is the ardent wish of

Your

Eliza Stedman.

Mrs. Graeme desires if you can Spare your Maid to Let her come up to Graeme Park when M^r Young comes to town She can have Your horse to ride as I suppose it will not be wanted after His return the Saddle is in the Chaise house and the bridle and the rest o [torn] is in the wash house in a Chest.

Mrs. Ann Græme to Elizabeth Græme.

My Dear Child

Since You went I have employ'd my self in the reading Your long Letter, in which You have pictured Your Situation in a most Lively, just, and proper manner. God knows my Poor heart, and Conscience, can sorely witness to the truth of every word, I showed it to your Papa, who read it with Tears running down his Cheeks in streams. he than'd God you escap'd him, for had he come here single, he might have been influenced by his Character, his Father, his Conscience, to desire You and that ardently too, and he (Your Papa) would have consented in compliance to Your desire. but said he was sure a Man who could treat You as he had done would render You very miserable in a short time. he admired at, but did not disapprove, of Your Resolution in writing and delivering it by Your self. he would not doubt but the same fortitude which has bore you out so well through this whole affair will in a little time show every thing in its proper light and consequently so compose Your Mind to think as he does. But indeed my Dear it is not your own strength which has brought you so far through this tedious, and perplexing affair. if you think it is, you do not know your self, for who gave you that Ingenious and discerning spirit, which I have so often upon my knees, with Tears of joy, returned thanks to the Divine Author for, no, no my Dear we should run into all manner of Vice and Folly, were we left to our selves, for we have seeds in us that will grow up to bad, unless assisted by Grace, added to our own desires, and endeavors, to root them out, and it has been a sensible support to me thro'ut this whole affair that You were conducted through it with such Prudence and Temper; because I always looked on it as a visible mark of the Divine Protection of You,

and I am very sure it will be always continued if you submit your will to his, who is Your supream Lord and Governor, My Dear this is not common place; or religious Cant, but my fixed Opinion, after a long consideration, and many Instances, both towards my self and others, I confessed I was extreemly surprized and shocked when my Child told me she did not beleive a directing hand towards Individuals in there trifling events, how such a thought could take place in a mind so well acquainted with the Scripture and beleives them as they are so very full and clear to the contrary, I wonder at. I shall quote but two, one out of the Old and the other out of the New Testament, because I might as well attempt to transcribe the whole Bible as to enumerate texts to this purpose, but if there were none but these; they are so clear and full that they alone are sufficient to beat down all contradiction King David in the 55 Psalm ve^s 23, O, cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall nourish thee, and shall not suffer the righteous to fall for ever. ended most part of that Psalm, as well as many others is extreemly applicable to Your case.

the other is, that most tender and Affectionate invitation of our Lords to those who beleive he Died for them, and rest on his Merriits. Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy Laden and I will give rest. take my Yoke upon you. for my Yoke is easy and my burden is light, light ended because it lightens every other burden, by pressing down those passions which adds weight to every burden.

but on recollection I know when the mind is under any great pressure we think our selves out of any bodies notice, and much more below that of the Supream being.

but this is only owing to our narrow conceptions, who cannot comprehend how he regards the whole of his works at one veiww, and that his mercy extends to all his works, as M^r Addison sets forth most clearly in the paper I gave you to read; and as I know he is very justly a favorite Author, I have Transcribed another Papar of his for Your consideration.

You say I look grave and am uneasy, but my Dear Bettzy can I be other-wise when I see Your heart torn to peices by so many different emotions. if I am so happy as to see You regain Your Natural Serenity, you will find I shall be very chearful, for I am very sure I can meet with nothing that will effect me like what I feel for You, but it is not the cause but the efect I greive for.

I was Yesterday to Visit at the House, the Gentleman was not at home above half an hour before I came away, and the Lady too Polite to thro out any thing. no not the least hint which should lead me into any part of the Affair; in the most distant manner. Which I was extreemly glad of; because I firmly resolved not to be at all led into without an extreem necessty She asked when You would be in Town. I told I did not know because, as you had been a great while going, M^r^s Campel, who is very fond of you; I supposed will detain you as long as She could, which was all that passed in regard to you, we appear'd to have a very easy afternoon. and after desiring a tune on the Harmonica;

we parted with great ease, and Politeness on all sides, so you see he is at full liberty to act towards you as he thinks fitt. but how did I feel while he was playing and I by his Chair, to know You had been there in such perturbation of mind as you must have had on that occasion.

I had come just so far in this, when I was called to M^r Duchee, who came in ye Sep^r Packet; was put a shore on stratton Island; and arived at his own house the second day of ye fair, according to his Wife's expectation; he is very well, desires his best regards to You, he was but six days in London, every one of which, some part or other he and M^r Woodham spent together, he says he beleives it was to be at Liberty to talk of his Friends here; for that was the whole Topick of their Conversation. M^r W—m had a most disagreeable passage, as to ship, Company, and weather, but very good health. and so he left him, but very dull longing to return, he gave his Letters to M^r D—ee, which being a very large Pacquet he was Obliged to put them in his Chest, it not being yet come, I suppose You will not have them this Boat, M^r Young is very angry at it; because Friend goes on sunday.

You know You have the Tender Affections and good wishe of all here, and we join in Comp^{ts} to Your good Landlady and Family. I have sent the Sweetmeats &c. You are my Dear never one moment out of my thoughts, I pray incessantly for composure of Your Mind, (which I know can-not be, till You have attain'd an entire submission to the Divine Will.) which I hope you will soon feell to the great joy of her who can know no Peace, while You want itt; being in the utmost extent of the words My Dearest Child

Tenderly, and Affectionatly Your

Decem^{br} 3^d 1762.

A. Græme

What can the Man fear, who takes care in all his Actions to please a Being that is Omipotent? A Being who is able to crush all his Adversaries? A Being that can divert any Misfortun from befalling him, or turn any such Misfortune to his Advantage The Person who lives with this constant and habitual regard to the great Superintendent of the World, is indeed sure that no real Evil can come into his Lot. Blessings may appear under the Shape of Pains, Losses, and Dissappointments. but let him have Patience. and he will see them in their proper Figures, Dangers may threaten him, but he may rest satisfied that they will either not reach him, or that if they do, they will be the Instruments of Good to him. In short, he may look upon all Crosses and Accidents, Sufferings and Afflictions, as Means which are made use of to bring him to Happiness. This is even the worst of that Man's Condition whose Mind is possessed with habitual Fear I am speaking of. But it very often happens, that those which are Evils in our own Eyes, appear also as such to him who has Human Nature under his Care, in which Case they are Certainly averted from the Person who has made himself, by this Virtue, an Object of Divine Favor, Histories are full of Instances of this Nature, where Men of Virtue have had extraordinary escapes out of such Dangers as have inclosed them, and which have seemed inevitable. Guar^{dm} Vol 2 11^o. 1.1.7.

Pray. Read this, and Apply it for none can have a better Title to than you who have made this Your Study, and Practise from Your Infancy. A. G.

[Note in handwriting of Mrs. Fergusson.]

“Letter Relative to my Breaking with M^r W. Franklin, 1762.”

Dr. Thomas Græme to Elizabeth Græme.

Bettsey my Dear

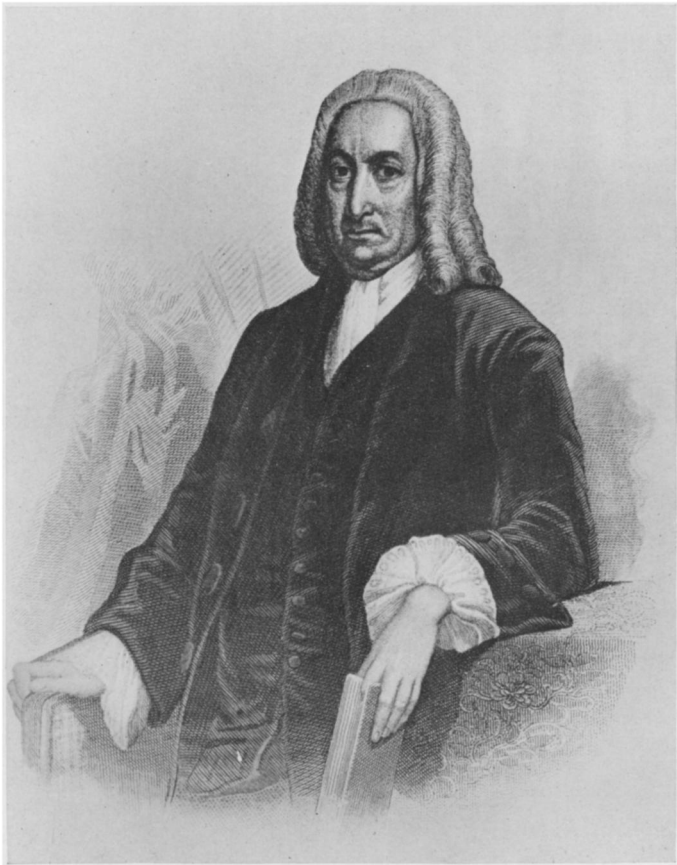
I perceive by a Paragraph in your Mamas Letter that during this Recess from us and the Town you expected to have heard from your Papa. Tis true I think your expectations were not unreasonably grownded. You have had exchanges of Correspondance with your Mama and other friends which in some measure supplyd my Remisness. This is the most I can say for not so immediately corresponding with a Child so Dear to me and who is allways in my thoughts. But to tell you the truth, I could not well write to you without hinting to you the extreme anxiety I was under considering the present situation of your mind. This very thing may be urged as an argument against me, and it may be so, yet there is a certain unwillingness or a delicacy that opposes its self to ones inclinations contrary to what ought to be done, and what one by this reason ought to overcome. This my Dear Bettsey is my precise case.

Im not my Dear Child a Stranger to those letters sent you from Town nor to your dutifull Kind and discreet answers, particularly one sent you from an extraordinary Quarter, which I think breaths all the integrity that should accompany sincerity and truth, and with all a Complysance and I may say a Veneration for you which can not be well feignd. This conduct in so able a Master in the knowledge of human Nature could not fail of soothing and softening you under your disappointed Innocence, yet Im far from concluding it would accomplish a Cure. That must be left to time, the power your reason has over all your thoughts and inclinations, joined with the Sympathy your friends partake with you. But above all when reason brings you back to its Test, youl soon discover the Insidious paths of a Deceiver in every Step taken since that person left this place, and make no doubt but will in time be thankfull to that good Providence that would not admit so much truth and Innocence to be allayd to so deep deceit and light vanity.

My dear Bettsey your Mama I and your friends here cant make up to you for everything, yet we with a mind so justly formd as yours may do a good deal. Therefor we hope you’l return to us with cheerfullness, where youl be received in the Bosom of those who will open it to you with an affection unfeignd and a tenderness not to be expressed, by him who thinks himself so happy in being the ffather of so good and Dutifull a Child,

Tho: Græme

As by the whole tenor of your letters you expressd your Satisfaction and .appiness in Mrs. Campbells & Mr. Campbell’s Company ever since



DR. THOMAS GRÆME

you have been under their Roof, my Wife and I can not but on our parts be highly sensible of the obligation. So with my best respects and kind Compliments to both, let them know how much we esteem their favours, with a happy New year to us all.

Philad^a Janry 1, 1763.

(Outside address of letter)

To

Miss Elizabeth Græme
att Burlington

James Young to Elizabeth Græme.

Dear Miss

With a very particular pleasure I read your letter as it informs me you continue to increase your health, whither it was the fresh air of Græme Park or the satisfaction of seeing my friends there that has contributed to mine I shall not determine but I have not been so well of a long time as at present; I have not thought of the Psalm I was to put into Dutch Rhime since I saw you & I doubt if I ever shall in that respect unless to promote mirth amongst such good company as are with you, Frank was very Sociable during our ride not a word of musick nor Sternold & Hopkins, the profuse prospect of Plenty throughout the Country & the fine Weather kept up our Spirits after leaving the agreeable retreat of G. P. we thought not of Phil^d till we found ourselves in Second Street, Entangled amongst Waggon, Dreys, Market Folks & Dust.

My Love to my Dear Children & tell Anny I send a Fan & her Umbrella which I desire she will make use of, I bought it for that purpose, the Sun is equally powerful in Country or City, I shall endeavor to pay you a Visit while your Papa is with you to see all his Family together in his Own house to whom please make my Respectful Compliments. Tell your Mamma I shall endeavor to buy Poussets Negro for her to day tho' he may exceed your Papa's limited price as I have a very extraordinary Character of him—the inclos'd came by the Pacq^t. I beleive Pease will be proclaimed on Monday, if there be any Illuminations I shall do my best, heartily wishing you good Health I remain

Your very aff^t Brother

& most Obed^t Serv^t

Phil^d 23^d July 1763.

Ja^s Young^d

Rev. Richard Peters to Elizabeth Græme.

Liverpool, 20 Nov^r 1764.

Dear Miss

This day brought me here after staying four days at Mrs. Bartlett's forty miles short of this Town. The first Questions put to me was a kind Enquiry after your health, which I hope continues as good as

James Young married Mrs. Fergusson's sister, Mary Græme.

when I left you. My Journey was very agreeable till towards the close of it, when I was visited with a violent pain in my Back owing to over great Exercise. This pain continues and has brought on some of the Symptoms of my old disorder. Rest & my happy situation will restore all things—but my favorite Post Chaize is become so disagreeable that I shall hereafter take to my horse and never trespass by overdoing, but take my exercises with moderation and in the forenoon.

Your Bedding will be on Wednesday the 28th Instant at the Ax in Aldemantury it is directed to you at Mr. Neates Merch^t in London, if it is not delivered in time somebody should be ordered to call for it. Polly wrote a Letter to you at Mr. Neaves to inform you of your Beddings being sent by the Liverpool Waggon.

Everybody here expresses an high esteem for you & desire I will mention them to you, particularly my Sister, Polly, Brother, Statham and Dicky. Peggy has a shore in their Enquirys & they are glad she has recovered a good State of health,

Pray write me how you find yourself in your new manner of Life—what sort of Victuals & how your Cookery goes on—as nothing can give me greater pleasure than to hear every one y^t you can expect any Civility from gives it you in the best & most affectionate manner, it would comfort me much to be informed of your Visitors & the manner you spend those tedious Evenings, when you do not chuse to go to the Play.

When you have pleased yourself in the choice of a Silk for Mrs. Gartside in which pray be not over tasty—Will you be so good as to send me a little shred of the Silk in a Letter with any particulars y^t shall occur to you, for I cannot write to Mrs. Gartside till I receive some account of this weighty business now from you. May you be favoured with a continuance of your health & happy flow of Spirits. This visit to my sister dwells so much upon my mind that I had no heart either to return the visits paid me or to make others where really I ought to have done it. Say this for me to S^r John St. Clair & Lady, to Mr. Napier Dr. Knox, Dr Huet & Dr. Russel and Major Tullekens if you see him and particularly to Col. Hunter & Mrs. West. I am

Dear Miss

Your most obedient
humble Servant

Richard Peters.

Be sure if you have Letters
from home just mention to
me in general how all are.

Rev. Richard Peters to Elizabeth Græme.

Liverpool 4 Dec^r 1764

My dear Miss.

You cannot do me more harm than by not letting me know at least once a week how you do. Did you but know what pain I have suffered at not hearing any thing from you ever since I came here, you would

not be so cruel as to do so again. The State of my health, tho it mends every day, & I have every Comfort that a kind Sister can give, will not admit of discomposure. I need say no more to one who can feel for others, and especially for those who love her with the same tenderness that her anxious Parents do.

Will not confinement hurt you? It has always appeared to me that it does. You get into thinking about Philadelphia or upon some warm scene in a well wrote Book—and forget that you are too apt to let these things enter deeper into your heart than they should do.

I have acquainted Mrs. Gartside with what is done and whom I know where she will chuse to have her new Silk sent to her whether to Wrexham or here and as soon as I have her answer you shall hear again from me.

I see you have been favoured with many kind visits from all your friends. Pray give my Services to all of those who are of my Acquaintance and let them know that I will hasten to wait on them as soon as I return to London which will be in the middle of January. My Complaints are all abated—Rhubarb does wonders. I take but 4 grains well toasted every night. It is certainly a most happy Perscription.

I hope what you are taking for the recovery of your health will have every good Effect the Doctor proposes. It is a bad time of the year for the Operation of medecine. Don't omit writing and dont hide any thing from me that is material & proper for me to know.

Pray God preserve you & give you a mind turned to Him as the great Physician both for mind Body—both for time & Eternity—to his goodness I commit you, being

Dear Miss

Your affectionate

Friend

Richard Peters.

Rev. Richard Peters to Elizabeth Græme.

Liverpool 14 Dec^r 1764.

Dear Betsy.

Your kind Letter lets me know that your health is in a little better State than it has been, & that you are recovering from a Relapse that was occasioned by Night Air. You cannot be too careful, there is something in the Air of London that neither with you nor me. I found an uncommon Chilliness all the while I was in London. We have more wet here and yet I find myself better every day. My Sister would be glad you would try it it will not have the same Effect upon you and gives you from the Bottom of her heart an Invitation to return here with me unless you think or shall be advised that Bath will do better.

The enclosed will set your mind at ease. They came to me this morning. They are from your Father and Mother and I suppose Mrs. Stedman. I have a kind Letter from both your Father & Mother & J. Young, who are all well, and if you chuse to return in Capt^a Long Mr.

Young and your Mamma say the Vessel can be sent so as to anchor at Liverpool about the time agreed upon for our departure—but an answer must be returned to this Offer as soon as possible—so pray let me know your mind.

By mistake I broke the Seal of one of your Letters but I did not read a single word more than Dear Betsy—my hurry made me take one of your Letters for my own.

I find every thing is in distraction at Philadelphia & an obstinate prosecution of the Petition against Mr. Penn is a measure absolutely agreed upon by y^e Assembly.

If you want money Mr. Barclay will let you have what Sum you please I having wrote to that house to give you what you shall want. I can say nothing to your change of Lodging—do just as you please you will first acquaint Mr. Penn with it & take his advice. He writes me so many good things of you dictated by Lady Juliana's & his own great Esteem of you that you will be vastly pleased when I shew you his Letters. Indeed I want much to give you all the Comfort I can—tho my dear Sister & all here render every thing most agreeable to me, yet I cannot but be very weary at being absent from you in so bad a State of health as you have been in since I left you. I want to shew you your father & Mother's Letters & to say a thousand things to you. Mr. Penn writes me often & in a most friendly pleasing manner. The Family remove to Town on Tuesday. My Friends have all wrote to me, except Mr. Charles & Alexander Stedman. From them I have not a Line at which I wonder and cannot say but their Silence so little expected gives me pain. I wrote more than once to them.

Dont you think too much about home? I am apprehensive such thoughts are too much indulged hurt you. This is one reason why I want to be with you. We can talk about them & that will relieve better than thinking. I am sorry they enclosed their Letters in mine. This has cost you I am afraid many an anxious thought. I see it has by what you write.

My Nephew accompanies me up to London. He is a great Comfort to me being sensible, plain, upright, affectionate. The more I see him the more I am pleased with him. As to Lodgings—I will write you & Mr. Penn about them. There is one circumstance that grieves me, which is that his business will not let him come sooner than the 27th of January & I must either stay till then or lose his Company.

My friends here will not let me have as much time as to write a letter or two that I promised Miss Freame. I have much to say upon a Book I sent her—Spences Polymetis—and I cannot get respite enough to put my thoughts in any order.

Pray write me by the Return of y^e Post how you are. Are your Intermittents come again? Are you pensive. I am never a Friend by halves, to you I shall take a pleasure to impart every good thing I have. My best service is to pray you may think of Heaven as your home & then sickness or health will be pretty near indifferent. Let God be all.

Yrs

Richard Peters.



ELIZA STEDMAN

FROM COPY OF MINIATURE IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF PENNSYLVANIA

Eliza Stedman to Elizabeth Graeme.

Philadelphia Decem^{br} 16th 1764.

My Dear Miss Graeme tis with Pleasure I hear by every oppertunity of Your being in a better State of health wich I hope will Still continue to mend and I should have told you so long before this in black and white but your good Mamma and Sistor so constantly write and inform you of all that passes here that indeed there is not any thing left for me to Scribble a bout except My constant attachment to Miss Graeme and Sincere wishes for her happyyness. You dont mention in your last any thing of London but cant immagin your so void of curiositey as to be three Weeks so near that great City without Steping in and at Least making a flying Visit any other I suppose would be contrary to the Laws of tast and politeness if the same prevailles in London that I find by your Poettical account of Scarborough did there wich was indeed a high Scene of dissipation and very different from the composed tranquil way your hours used to glide on when in Philadelphia I fancy at first it must be a little erksom and disagreeable hurry'd from one Scene to one other without time to think of what's past but this you'l Say is talking Like ane american that's no Idea what Living is and enjoying agreadeal in a Small compass of time well I'll Submitt to your better judgment and endeavour to follow Your example when You return till then I must go on in the Same path I have trod so Long wich upon my Word has no great variety in it but custom has made it agreable and on reflection I would not wish a change in any one way for I am happy more so then I deserve and to desire more would be ungreatfull for what I enjoy.

M^r Woodham requested me to tell You he once more left Philadelphia with I think but little prospect of return as he Seems to be almost gone. We have Concerts this Winter as before where I generally attend and the only publick place I Shew my Self there is nothing new in the diversion way here and as to marriages they ante thought of those that are in that State of bondage think fit now and then to increase and Multiply in down right compasion as this is a young Country and wants peopling so in a counsel its been though fit as there's no new beginners to call those to there assistance whom had given over the good work such as M^{rs} Bond the elder M^{rs} Plumsted and many more too tedious to mention and M^{rs} Smith taking under consideration that M^r Penn was a very good Freind of her husband it was her duty as a return to add one more to his province wich she will Shortly doe if She Saw this Lord have mercy on me for I am sure She would have none. My respectfull Compliments to M^r Peters and I am

My Dear

Miss Betsy

Sincerely Your

Eliza Stedman.

Rev. Richard Peters to Elizabeth Græme.

Liverpool 3 January 1765

Dear Betsy.

The old year did not end without the remembrance of a multitude of Occurrences which deserved & had my most thankful acknowledgements before the Throne of Grace. Think but how much we wished, but how faint was the Prospect, at the opening of the last year, of our visiting these favor'd Countries. Our health precarious—my engagements numerous & perplexed—made me sometimes wish that I had never mentioned y^e thing to your anxious Parents. The Winter did not advance far before Sickness opened to me—indeed a better & a much wished for Country, but to you things looked as if you was not only to lose a near friend but all hopes of the Journey, that by being so often made the Subject of Conversation had begun to make a pleasing Impression on the Imagination, were totally given over, and as I have heard you say a train of unfavourable Images pass'd on your mind. My Recovery was so far good as to afford an expectation that our Tour might happen; but nothing looked well about it one difficulty or another always starting up. All of a sudden, your health grew better, the parting sighs were silently indulged, & tho strong yet neither hurt the delicacy of your frame nor the greater tenderness of your affectionate Spirits. I rubb'd thro an immense Sight of business and the Embarcation and our Arrival here took place. We have since seen a great variety of Scenes & were thank a good Providence in a better situation at the opening of y^e new year than our most sanguine Expectations would permit us to hope for. Think you not that these dear remembrances and our mutual delight in so many friendly Conversations have not endeared you to me? Yes they have, and I indulge the innocent and pure hopes of this happiness increasing in that vane of scenes which we shall go through wth the same mutual satisfaction.

You cannot think what pleasure you gave me on telling me that you passed Christmas day alone. Oh! It is a favourable festival. God & Heaven are brought so near to us by this adorable Incarnation that I assure you I am oftner in heaven than upon the Earth. I long to impart to you some of my spiritual Entertainments, not in the Stiffness & Self Sufficiency of your Journal writing pietists but with the humility & gratitude of a mind that has been brought by the long suffering God and a long & familiar acquaintance with the holy Scriptures unto a calm & constant expectation of a happy Immortality. This world has its duties & Let them be forever sacredly observed. But Heaven we were originally made for & under a certain persuasion of this and with all that Train of internal communications which follow such a rational & connatural Faith, the present world sinks very much in its value and whilst a Son of God is in view—who first gave y^e Character of Earth & then went to heaven to realize the vanity of the one & the Eternity & Solidity of the other I see I feel the Angel in myself & so does every other good person in the world. You do my Dear Betsy and with me

often indulge such a pleasing train of thoughts. Scripture feeds the glorious Prospect. Indeed I can't read them now without considering myself as a fellow Citizen of the Saints & if the household of God. Accept y^e Meditations of the Season—accept my prayers for every good thing that God can give you. Accept every Endeavours of mine to give you Comfort. I joy much in your friendship, I expect much from it. I have mention'd you to Mrs. Gartside & to my Sister & this Family as you would do, as you have done yourself. Adeau.

Yours

Richard Peters.

Juliana Ritchie to Elizabeth Græme.

My Dear Miss Græme

My Cold Continueing prevents me from Seeing you to day I therefore take this meathod to inquire how you do, & what Situation Peggy is in, if She is Still Sick, let me beg that you'l get a nurce for her or I am apprehencif the fatigue of attending her, in your delicat State of health, is a task you are by no means equal too, & I realy think, no motives of humanity Shou'd induce you to trifle with a point so assencial to your Future happiness, experiance having proved to you, the bad effects of too much excercise, more than once,

Millians of thanks for the fan, I receive it as a pledge [torn], I Shall Ever be Studious to merrit, & Earnestly wish that Some oppertunity may inable me to prove, the Cincerity of my professions.

This little, flattring, gay machain—with pleasure I review you
For it inspires a grateful Sence—& makes me think of art.
As various formes the painters hand—has here display'd with heart
Friendship in distant realms Shal draw—your image on my heart
All vain attempts to be admired—I totaly decline
And to my best accomplished friend—the dying *Swains resine*.
Adieu, it wou'd be vain to atempt to tell you how much I am

Yours

Juliana Ritchie

Norfolk Street 27th Jan^{ry} 65.

Eliza Stedman to Elizabeth Græme.

Philadelphia March 9th 1765

My Dear Miss Bettsy

It was with Pleasure I received your favour of Novem^{br} the 13 and am not a Little Surprised when I See the quantity of writing you have Sent how the time has been found to accomplish it in when there is so many agreable things to take up the attention of a Stranger but I know your industry is great in what ever you undertake and suppose many one hour is Stealth from the gentle God of Sleep to fill those Sheets of paper wich I have yet the pleasure to come of reading—I find by your Letters that England has great charms thoe I make no dought

you'll return to U S without regret yet I fancy London barring your tender Connexions here would have the preference before Philadelphia was there a necesety for a choice—

I take it very kind in my dear Freind to clear me to My Aunt Weston of neglect as to writing my Mother and Sistor but latterly my Letters has been sent to M^r Neat as I would not trouble her with them knowing She lives much out of town but esteem it Freindly in her to take notice of my Seeming remissness in that perticular—

the gownd I have received and is quite answerable to my expectations think my Self indebted for the trouble you have had Please to accept my thanks for the Stomacher and bows wich are very pretty and did I want to be reminded of an absent Freind they would answer that purpose when ever I put them on but We never Meet on our Stated days but I miss you my Dear from among the Number of wich I have the Honour to be one. My Aunt has been indisposed fourteen days with the gout but is now better and abroad again I hope by the assistance of Doctor Fothergill you'll git the better of all complaints and that I Shall See you blooming and fatter then I am your good Mamma is well and in Spirets but I cant say Looks as harty as the Doctor who Seems to have no one complaint wich I think uncomin at his time of Life.

It is Say'd here that Miss Bond is in a Short time to be Married to a M^r Martin the truth of wich I will not venture to assert you may remember between 4 and 5 year agoe it was talk'd that he courted her and that She trusting to the Strenght of his passion took a few Female Airs wich the gentleman resented whent down to Mariland and married a very pretty Woman whom he has latly burried and I fancy She will Soon Leave him at the Same Liberty and now My Dear Miss Betsy I must conclude it is Saterdag morning and I am call'd upon to dress for dinner beleive me to be with Sincerity

Your Most Affectionate Freind and Humble Serv^t

Eliza Stedman.

March, 13th

The Ship not going as soon as I expected has given me an oppertunity to add a line or too more to the above I have perused your journal and often have I wish'd to have pertook with you, in those delightfull Scenes indeed I envy you the enjoyment of pleasures wich would have been relish'd by me with double Sattisfaction in your company but as I cant enjoy it with you there I will by the help of immaganation here and be contentedly yours

E. S.

Juliana Ritchie to Elizabeth Græme.

My dear Miss Greeme,

Will you be, my favorit flower for one day, & in the condecention, you'l make a party of friends very happy—the Consist of the two Mrs. Robertsons, a Miss , an old Maid of fortune, & Miss Van donendon, the Gentlemen are, Governor Brown, Mr. Rose, & Mr. Bath, Commicery

general of the troops & sent to Portugal—if you favor us with your Company we all meet, at the Rev^d Mr. Robertsons in Norfolk street, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past five o'clock, the Ticket explains the rest. I hope you have not forgot our party to Chiswick on Monday, we all meet at Mr. Robertsons in Norfolk Street at 12 o'clock, from whence we proceed in a Barge attended with Musick &c., to the Duke of Devonshires & after amusing our selves &c, dine somewhere there, & retorne home in the evening. Shall I finde you there or shall I call on y^e. Pray, can you spende the day at her house 6 m^s from town, & all my own lining being gone, I am puzzled what excuse to make, except you can help me out.

adieu—God bless you

Yours

Saturday Morning

J. Ritchie.⁶

pray excuse this horid scroal, I write in a noise sufficient to Stun me—let me hear from you I am not well, nor have not been Since I saw you, is the reason I have not done my selfe the pleasure of asking how dear Miss Greeme does.

[On card enclosed is written.]

Mrs. Ritchies Comp^{ts} to Miss Graeme hopes she is well today.—if the day Continues favorable, hope for the pleasure of meeting her at Mr. Robertsons in Norfolk street at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 o'clock to go to Cheswick. St. Pauls Tuesday Morning.

Rev. Richard Peters to Elizabeth Graeme.⁷

Liverpool 9th July 1765.

Dear Betsy.

I joyn with you in returning thanks to a merciful God for the good state of your health. May it long continue that your mind, already fill'd with a thousand good Observations may be at liberty to increase & multiply its rational Store. Your sprightly Imagination will draw all forth & place things in an improving & entertaining light to such as you will receive into your acquaintance. And your good Affections will give you a readiness to apply all to y^e comfort of all you are by nature or choice connected with.

⁶ Miss Graeme has written on the letter sheet as follows: "Alass the Day to be spent at Chyswich was the Day I heard of my dear Parents Death. The Lady was so good as to give up the Pleasure proposed and spend it in a Dark Room with me a favor that I never shall forget a Stranger in a Common Lodging—all out of town I know."

London July 9, 1765.

This letter is addressed—"To Miss Greeme at Mess^{rs} Forner & Hitchcocks, Milliners, Pall Mall."

⁷ Addressed To Miss Graeme at Hitchcock & Turners, Milliners over against St Albans Street, Pall Mall, London.

Why did not you say that the Chaise should come for you to London? Or did you think as we do, that if it came fresh to you at D^r Fothergills it would carry you as expeditiously as you please to Scotland. Believe me I know not what it is to be insincere wⁿ I say any thing to or of my Friends it is all from the heart. Not a word have I said about going to Scotland but what came truly from my real desire & intention of going wth you & enjoying the pleasures of your Relations, It would have given me a solid satisfaction to have accompanied you & I never till I came so late to London & heard of my Sisters health intended any other thing—but the tedious Length of Time that was spent at the Hot wells has thrown all into Confusion and spoil'd the whole, Mr. Penn presses much for a good space before my Embarcation—My Sister & hers cannot think, now they have me, of parting soon with me. These are both unexceptionable & undissmissible obligations. More then, I cannot do, than to wait on you wth the Post Chaize at D^r Fothergills. I shall come to Mr. Bartlets w^{ch} is in that neighborhood at Cranage the morning after you arrive you shall see me God willing & then we will talk further. The Horses will be fresh—the Coachman is very clever—the Chaize is good and James shall be made a good servant to you. I may go with you one day on the Road & set you forward.

My Sister, Mr & Mrs Gartside, Mr Bartlet & Sister, Raphy & his wife are all here, and very heartily joyn in giving you their most sincere & affectionate respects. They do not desire to have any remittance of my stay among them, that excepted you have not a wish relating to my Company & Comfortable assistance to you which is not theirs. This is no interfering—tis natural & every thing ought to be conducted agreeable to it.

Your letters are of so late a Date that you must have great pleasure in hearing from home. I write by the Packet that you are likely to get well, you will, I hope, confirm it.

You stay in Scotland a Month—that is you get there y^e first of August & leave it the first of September, I most religiously adhere to my resolution & shall sail as soon as the Equinoctial Gale is over which will be some time in all probability before the 20th or 30th 7^{ber}, I cannot bear the thoughts of going without you, Contrive every thing to comport with this time.

As to the Expense of a Chaize down to D^r Fothergills, if necessary, it is nothing, to y^e certainly of having your journey to Scotland from his house well performed.

I can come to you about y^e 20th of August & stay with your friends & return with you to London & do all I want, I observe you set out the 18th from London, you will be at Lea Hall on Monday the 22^d, on Tuesday I visit Dr. Fotherigll & so we will settle everything, that is not mentiond in this Letter, My very kind affection attends D^r Fothergill & his sister, I calld on his Brother W^m I came here & told him exactly

Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, née Græme. 283

when & how the D^r intended to come, I am his & D^r Betsy your affectionate humble servant

Richard Peters.

Let me know your sentiments
on this letter by a Line by
the Post.

Rev. Richard Peters to Elizabeth Græme.

Stoke house 22^d 7^{ber} 1765

My dear Betsy

What is the best of women without money in the City of Westminster? That this may not be your case, I have drawn on Mess^{rs} Barclay for Twenty five Guineas which James will receive for you, Employ him as much as you can for I leave him to go your Errands, Buy for me what you think Proper, My Sister is proud and Polly has caught a tolerable share of it from her Mamma, whatever is bought, Let it be good, Wⁿ I come, David Barclay will trust me, I will supply what more Cash you may want for yourself & me,

I acquainted Dr. Fothergill by Letter yesterday that you would stay in London on Friday purely to see him, I hope you wrote yourself.

Lady Juliana [Penn] says so much in your favour that I beg you may have nothing to do after Friday, but to come & be here wth all your Soul & Spirits & tongue [?]

Send James with the enclosed to Mr. [Nathaniel] Evans who will please you vastly with a sprightly conversation, He has wrote several pretty ingenious Pieces of Poetry w^{ch} will entertain us on board, He will come & see you.

Pray tell James to enquire at D^r Bartons in Abingdon Buildings near Palace Yard who is Secretary to y^e Society for propagating the Gospel for one Mr. Moore his Deputy Secretary & to find out where he lives & tell him y^t I will call on him & pay him the £6, 10, 2½ for y^e Prayer Books & Bibles; or let James pay him and take his Receipt

We are like your Modish Man & Wife, very complaisant at a distance but never seen together, nor have time to speak to one another, True Amity however can bear this for awhile; Not longer than is absolutely necessary

Your affectionate & humble serv^t

Richard Peters.

Mary Redman to Elizabeth Fergusson.

october y^e 2^d 1772

My Dear Madam

You will doe me the justice to beleive there is no one more affectionately interested in every event which Concerns you than myself and consequently must have felt extremely Sorry to hear your marriage made so great a part of public conversation especially as I knew that at this particular crisses of your affairs it must give you an additional distress and I Sincerely wish it had remaind a Secret till you my Dear

Madam had chose to have it made known, and how it transpired I am yet at a loss to guess for I am very certain no one of the parties present on the occasion ever gave the moste distant hint concerning it—Your Letter came too late in the Evening to let M^r Peters see it till the next morning when I showed it to him but M^r Duchea had been before hand with me and had made M^r Peters acquainted with your Marriage he appeared a good deal Surprized at first but said he was sorry you should give yourself one moments pain with respect to his oppinion of the affair as he was convinced from a knowledg of your good sence and the general rectitude of your heart you would not on any account swerve from what you thought a duty if consistent with your Idea of happiness if there had been a possibility of avoiding it: and he sincerely wishd you all that felicity which a happy union with a person every way agreeable Can possibly afford he readily acquiesd with the reasons you gave for not haveing made him acquainted with the affair sooner and assured me he was disposed from every motive of friendship and affection to tender you all the good offices in his power; if you have not allready wrote to him I should be glad you would by the first opportunity as he expects a letter from you—as to my own part be assurd my Dear Madam I ever thought your whole Conduct with respect to your worthy parent was amiable and dictated by duty and affection and make no doubt but your whole behaviour must have been such as gave him pleasure and contributed to render his declining years happy & comfortable—I know persons of your Delicate & tender sensibilities are the moste severe critics on their own actions yet doe not I beseech you my Dear friend suffer the disagreeable reflection of having once acted contrary to what you held as a duty too much embitter your future prospects and since an allwise Providence saw fit to hide from your good parent what would have given him pain if known it is certainly your Duty to acquies in the unering dispensations of Heaven and humbly to trust that all things have been directed for the best and may you be enabled to look forward in a cheerful Expectation of that happy period when Providence I hope will return your Dear M^r Fergusson fortunate in the Completion of every Scheme which may tend to promote your mutual felicity, and the present situation of your affairs may appear rather gloomey I need not remind you my Dear of the duty and advantage of placeing your dependance on him who has Graciously promised to be a father to the fatherles and a defender of those that trust in him and that you may experience his kind direction assistance and blessing is the sincere prayer of My Dear Madam

Your ever affect^d
friend & hum^bl Serv^t

M. Redman.^s

The Docter has been gon to trentown these 4 days to see Sally who desierns her moste affectionate compliments and sincerely wishes you all

^s *Mary Redman, née Sober, wife of Dr. John Redman.*



MARY REDMAN

FROM PORTRAIT IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

the felicity that a happy union can possibly afford please to give my compliments to Miss Stedman and Miss Young I hope to see you some time next week but have no prospect of meeting Sally at Greame park as M^r Coxe has been gon this six weeks to amboy and Nancy went to New york with M^{rs} Kemp where she has been thes 3 weeks.

Mary Roberdeau to Elizabeth Fergusson.

My dear friend

About half an hour ago coming into M^r Roberdeau's sitting room, he pointely begd me to sit, (as I am so seldom in it I am generally treated As A Visitant) the Chair I was about to Occupy had some loose [torn] in it, which I attempted to remove, when to My Unspeakable surprise [torn] the direction of A letter to me, in Your hand writing. I immediately broke [torn] & am this Moment confounded to think what must have been Your [torn] tion's that so much kindness & politeness from You, should meet [torn] better returns. How the letter came I have no Idea, Unless M^r Roberdeau should have reciev'd it & forgot it, tho, He Assures me he does not remember any circumstance respecting it. I shall suffer A good deal of pain Untill I know from Yourself that You have forgiven this Apparent Neglect, I therefore taken this early opportunity of writing, Notwithstanding I am As Much hurried in A Domestick way, as ever in my life, Occasioned by the sudden indisposition of My little Molly, which obliges me to leave Town Immediately & settle Myself for the remainder of the summer. You are well acquainted with the fatigue that is Occasioned by such a remove. My Own Unfitness to travel even so far As Græme Park was the only reason I did not see You As proposed with My friend M^r Piercy, who is now gone to N York, & Miss Kays to M^r Reshea place near Bristoll called New-Windsor, where I believe She will be detain'd some weeks, contrary to her expectat [torn] when she left Me. But as there is A Number of Young people the [torn] I imagine she will not be displeased with staying a longer time th [torn] She proposed. I Am Now so well, I am determin'd As soon As M [torn] little girl is also well, to take A tour to Princeton, from whence I shall Visit dear friends At G Park. Coll. Roberdeau is so exceedingly engrossed by publick business, that I tell for the [torn] time I really begin to look Upon Myself As an incumbrance [torn] small weight, & therefore I had better remove at A little distance. I am really in hopes he will not Miss me. I am with [torn] love to dear Betsey & respects to M^r Ferguson

My dear friends

Obliged humble Servant

Mary Roberdeau^{*}

Philad^a July 6^h 75.

^{*} *Mary (Bostwick) Roberdeau*, first wife of Gen. Daniel Roberdeau.

Ann Searle to Elizabeth Fergusson.

I think Myself much obliged to My Dear M^{rs} Fergusson for her kind Letter of congratulation on my return to America—& be assur'd I think my self very happy on my return to a country of so much virtue & spirit which in the End as our cause is good, will work our Salvation—The taking of S^t Johns is a great acquisition, our wicked Ministry had plum'd themselves much upon Canada I trust this will be a means of accommodateing matters to our Satisfaction sooner than we expected—M^r Searle did not Enjoy his health in England his being so great an Enthusiast in the cause of his country hurt him, but since he has breathed his native air he has become a new Man I feel for you sincerely on the absence of your Husband but as it 'tis but for a few months your good Friend Miss Stidman will I make no doubt administer all the comfort in her power untill his return—on my arrivel I found my sister confind to her bed with a disorder in her bowels & has not yet been able to leave her chamber her confinement & all my Friends who have been so kind to visit me has taken up every moment of my time, at present I have Stolen from some them a few minuttess to assure you D^r Mad^m that I

Am with great Sincerty your Much oblig'd
Friend & Hum^b^e¹ Ser^t
Ann Searle¹⁰

M^r Searle desires his respectfull Compliments to you & Miss Stedman has my love.

Miss Peggy Willing is to be made happy this night M^r Hair was our fellow passenger who I think very clever.

Nov 16th 75.

[Mrs. Fergusson has written the following on the letter:—"Letter of Compliment."]

Hannah Griffiths to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philadelphia December 4th 1775.

Dear M^{rs} Fergusson

Will you permitt me to revisit in Idea your happy fireside and thank you for your kind politeness to me while at Græme Park I assure you I shall rank the Days I past with you amongst the Happiest of my Life and I shall think of My friend's Marriage with double pleasure as it afforded me an oppertunity of forming an acquaintance with her amiable Aunt It would give me the Highest Satisfaction could I flatter myself the Liberty I have taken in Writing would be agreable but as you must feel a Desire of hearing how we got Home and Anne is too

¹⁰ *Ann [Smith] Searle*, first wife of James Searle, the patriotic importer of Philadelphia, who died in the summer of 1781, while her husband was in Europe.

much taken up with Company to give you any information I have taken it upon myself.

Miss Rhea & your Humble Servant continued in the Chariot without the Bride as she seemed to think us of no kind of Consequence when put in Competition with her Friend but a degree of Bashfulness induced her to take her seat with us before she got into Town The Weather prevented our waiting on her to Church and I never was better reconciled to a disappointment as I am an enemy to all unnecessary parade on these Occasions I should if possible wish to steal from even my own observation and of all Situations that of being set up as it were for an object on which every eye rests must be most disagreeable to a woman of Delicacy and as I was certain Anne would attract observation & of consequence feel a Number of disagreeable sensations I did not chuse to witness it.

I have been quite picqued at D^r Rush's negligence he has never been near us & I am determined never to officiate as Bridesmaid where an engaged Gentleman is Groom's man they become so inattentive to the rest of the Sex that we lose our consequence and that no woman ever was reconciled to but we console ourselves with thinking that its probable some one else may be treated with as much negligence upon our accounts in a similar Situation.

I have sent you the Books & if they afford you any Entertainment It will make me Happy I was fearful of sending them lest You should Condemn my Taste in reading and as I really know no person in whose Esteem It would afford me greater pleasure to Stand high than yours it would be a Sensible Mortification there is part of the Last leaf of Sethona torn of but as there is but a few lines more & those of no Consequence I would not deprive you of the Pleasure of reading the Play if it gives you as much as it did me you will not regret the time the other Books are merely entertaining but I leave them to speak for themselves & will only add that I am with the most grateful Remembrance of your Politeness and unfeigned good wishes your affectionate friend

H. Griffiths.

My Mamma joins me in thanking you & desires best Love to you mine awaits Miss Stedman.

Dr. John Redman to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Dear Madam.

Before Mr. Ferguson went he call'd on me to pay the Interest of his bond and my acc^t, As to the latter I inform'd him I was already satisfied, and therefore he had nothing to pay on that score, But I do not remember if I explain'd so fully to him then as I choose to do now to you, by saying that the satisfaction I had in rendering any services to the daughter of our good old Friends was a much more agreeable compensation to me than any pecuniary reward could afford. As to the interest I told him that as there was half a years rent due

from the place before I bought it, when I received the whole year which was then in suit, and I expected soon to get, I should apply the half of it in payment of the interest of his bond to Mr. Emblen, the principall of which is £100 which I accordingly did as soon as I rec'd it, so that there is not now quite half a years interest due. Whenever you choose to send y^e money, I shall see it discharged & Cancelld & send it up to you. But if you have it ready & cannot get a proper hand to send it by, If you only send me word by next market day as your desire, I will immediately discharge it to stop the y^e interest, and wait till you can get a safe person to send it by, which you need make no objection to as supposing it any disadvantage to me, seeing I have so much by me more than I have immediate occasion for, and have no thoughts of putting it out not knowing how soon we may have need of all we can get possession of, and therefore being a little time out of it till you can send it will make no difference to me. Wish best respects & Compliments to you & Miss Stedman, I am Dear Madam Y^r affectionate

Hble Serv^t

Philad^a June 6, 1776.

John Redman.¹¹

Mary Redman to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Thursday Evening

My Dear Madam.

tho it is long since I have had the pleasure of seeing you yet I frequently with solicitude enquired after you during your Illness and was extremly happy to hear you were quite recoverd and I am certain if the Doct^r had the least idea of your wishing to see him at that time he would gladly have waited on you; I have been so much Indisposed this month past with Rheumatism and Cholic but am now better Sally and the dear little boys are gon to Trenton which I shall make the place of my retreat in Case of Danger I am now packing up a few necessaries to send off that I may not be quite destitute should I unhapily be obliged to fly, but allas in such an event how much must the Scene be changed from peace plenty and security to be oblig'd to leave them all and perhaps never know the home felt Joy again of a peaceful home, but I will not indulge the sad reflection but look forward to the pleasing hope of som times enjoying the hapiness of seeing my good old friends amongst the first of whome I shall ever place my Dear M^{rs} Fergusone; Nancy joins me in affectionate Comp^{ts} to yourself and Miss Betsy Stedman we both hope to have the pleasure of waiting on you very soon may you be blest with peace & hapiness is the Sincere wish of your ever affectionate

M. Redman.

[June 1776.]

¹¹ *John Redman*, prominent physician and first president of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia.

Mary Redman to Elizabeth Fergusson.

My Dear Mrs. Ferguson

tho I cannot flatter my self that my letter will afford you the smallest entertainment I could not omit writing a few lines to thank you for the very agreeable way in which I past those days I had the pleasure of spending with you at the park and I can say with sincerity every mile that encreased my distance from you gave me regret as it tended to separte me from one of those few friends who are capable of giving me the Idea of true refinement blended with that Integrity of heat which allone can constitute the Valuable friend and I cannot but look uppon it as a peculiar Inflicity that you who are so every way calculated to give and taste those pleasures arising from friendship should by an unavoidable concurence of circumstances be so far seperated from that Kind of Society which I am certain would contribute greatly to your hapiness, I could wish to attone for the dullness of my letter by giving you some news but can here none but of the political kind which is that with much debates and altercation our Convention and all their laws are set aside after spending 3 or four Months and as many Thousands in deviseing them and we are now at liberty to Contrive a new Code but I fear in the struggle for priviledges our liberties will be lost, it would have given me great pleasure to Execute my dear M^{rs} Fergusons Commissions but it is not in my power to get any Crimson Harrateen in either Shop or Store som paper I have seen at eight Shillings a piece but not quite like yours for instead of the flower in the pillar which is in yours this has a large bird if you chuse it with this difference please to let me know and I will get it, the Gentleman who is going to England will Embarge next Sunday the Doc^r presents you his kindest Compliments want of time prevents his writing but he bids me tell you that he knows Menedaunts Drops to be an excellent medicine and wishes you to be exact in taking them according to the directions given with them I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Doctor thinks Miss Stedmans eye is getting much better Nancy desires her most affectionate Compliments and thanks for the very kind and agreeable entertainment you gave her and says you have the art of rendering your self agreeable both to the old and young Adieu my Dear madam may you soon enjoy the pleasure of good M^r Fergusons Company and with him every other happiness is the sincere wish of

your affectionate friend

& Humble Servant

M. Redman.¹²

Our Compliments to Mr. Young since writing this I have heard that General Hows leg was shot off in the last Scirmish and his knee so much shatered that his life is dispaired of

[1777.]

Friday Evening.

¹² This letter is addressed "To Mrs. Ferguson at Græme Park."

Henry Hugh Fergusson to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Phild^a 12 Oct^r 1777

My dearest Betsy

The inclosed note unattended with any letter from me would be fully sufficient I am persuaded to make you take a much longer journey than is at present necessary to serve so esteemed a friend—It is therefore alltogether needless to urge your return immediately to the rising sun where I will wait for you this evening—

I received Mr. Duchés note not more than two hours after you left me, and have been struggling with difficulties ever since to procure a person to go out and permission for him to pass the lines. This I have just now accomplished, and will not therefore add a word more for fear of delaying you a second longer than the distance requires from being here.

The bearer is a poor lad from the Billet, who has been confin'd here a week or ten days and to whom I have got the liberty of going home.

Love and affection to Miss Stedman and Mrs. Smith—

Yours eternally

H. Fergusson.

To Mrs. Fergusson
at Græme Park

Extracts from Letter of Washington to Congress.

Head Quarters at Peter Wentz's Oct. 16, 1777.¹³

"I yesterday, thro the hands of Mrs. Ferguson of Graham Park, received a letter of a very curious and extraordinary nature from Mr. Duché, which I have thought proper to transmit to Congress. To this ridiculous—illiberal performance I made a short reply, by desiring the bearer of it, if she should hereafter by any accident meet with Mr. Duché, to tell him, I should have returned it unopened, if I had had any idea of the contents; observing at the same time, that I highly disapproved the intercourse she seemed to have been carrying on, and expected it would be discontinued. Notwithstanding the Authors assertion, I cannot but suspect, that the measure did not originate with him, and that he was induced to it by the hope of establishing his interest & peace more effectually with the Enemy."

¹³ The house of Peter Wentz, still standing on the road from Centre Point to Heebnersville, in Worcester township, now Montgomery county, Penna., a substantial two-story stone building, erected in 1758. Writing to the President of Congress, October 16, 1777, Washington states: "We moved this morning from the encampment at which we had been for six or seven days past [Wampole's near Kulpsville], and are just arrived at the grounds we occupied before the action of the 4th" [Germanstown]. The army remained at Wentz's until October 21st.

Mary Roberdeau to Elizabeth Fergusson.

My dear friend

Neither in Visits nor letters between intimate friends do I ever wait for or expect Punctual payment without every proper allowance. I am sincerely sorry you have had so good an excuse for silence. believe me, (I hope I have not lost credit wholly with you) That I should not have omitted writing so long, but that I had really nothing that could Possibly entertain you one moment, Tho I should have recieved no answer to half a Dozen of my letters. I have indeed often long'd to see You & Your faithfull friend, & would most gladly have visited you when I heard of your Illness on preference to any other time. because I might then have had it in my Power to render you some service, as an asistant to your *better Nurse*. Miss Cliftons I understand did me the Justice of vindicating my almost lost Charector with you with respect to Promises by throwing the blame where it Justly *lies*.

M^r Roberdeau the last time I mentioned the Jaunt, beg'd Call another subject & think no more of it that he could not Part with me. That Publick tryals were as much as he could bear with at Present. I have therefore given up any thoughts of what I can assure you would give me great Pleasure. The great reason for my writing at this time is to save you from greater alarms than their is ocasion for. You have liv'd long enough in the Country to know that one third of the intelligence you have there is to be depended on. The truth as by express this morning is that two Men of War are on their way up the River, but as yet no farther the Reedy Island. The committee have sent the row Gally's to attack them wherever they shall find them. It is an important undertaking. If they are defeated one of our mo [torn] important mean of defence. But all my dependence is in the God of the Armies of Isreal. He will certainly do whatsoever is right. Much love to dear Betsey

I am dear Madam

Your affectionate friend

M. Roberdeau.

Tuesday evening.

[1777.]

Elias Boudinot to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Valley Forge, March 24, 1778.

My dear Madam.

Your favour by Major West came to hand this morning, and as he has promised me to call at my Quarters to morrow morning, I hope to have the pleasure of conveying this by him on his return. I hope you do not even suspect me of passing you on any occasion, without at least asking how you do? When I returned from Jersey, I was informed that the Enemy was in your Neighbourhood, having just taken off a drove of our Cattle; wherefore I was obliged to pass several miles above Corryell's ferry and came down on the rear of our Camp. I intended

to have honored myself by taking shelter for one night more under your hospitable Roof; and in consequence was the bearer of two Letters for you from Morven,¹⁴ which were not to be delivered but by myself. In this however, you have heard of my misfortune, in being deprived of that Pleasure.

I am happy in enclosing you £106.4.0 in full for the Certificate of 2360 Pounds of Beef at 90/ p. ct., which I hope will get safe to your hands.

Your great attention to our unfortunate Countrymen and fellow citizens demands the Thanks of every friend of humanity. As I am one of the Commissioners to sit at German Town next Wednesday, I think it would be best to collect the Linnen, and send it to me there; or rather I will endeavour to send for it to your House, where I hope to steal an Evening during our negotiation.

I have been confined to my Room with a slight Indisposition, but through the goodness of God am again able to go out. I do assure you a Camp in such a Wilderness is a horrid place to be sick in. It made me feel the loss of my humble Cot and dear family with double force. I pant eagerly after that domestic felicity of which I have allways been so large a partaker, and expect to take my leave of the Army in a few weeks, but whether I shall obtain my desires of sinking into my wished for obscurity, in the silent enjoyment of those invaluable Pleasures incompatible with publick Life, I know not; but rather hope for it, than think it will be affected.

My kindest Love and best wishes attend you with Miss Stedman, who I hope has not forgot her old Friend who I can assure her often thinks of her.

I am my D^r Madam, with great respect and Esteem

Your most Affect^o and

very Hble Serv^t

Elias Boudinot.

Mrs. Ferguson.

Andrew Robeson to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philad^a July 8th 1778.

Madam

Severe Heats and unexpected Business, at Potts Town, so long delayed my Return, that I could not indulge the pleasure I promised myself in a Visit to Graeme Park.

Col: Boudinot, whom you mention, came with me down to the City. From him I learned of your having reached Home, and that he had seen and perused the Memorial. He hinted the Mistakes mentioned in your Letter. The first as to the Date is material. The last is scarcely worth Attention, as the other Facts stated in the Course of the Narrative, shew most clearly that M^r Ferguson was not an *Inhabitant* of

¹⁴ *Morven*, country seat of Richard Stockton.

America at any time after the Declaration of Independance, but as a Subject of Britain. I shall however, as soon as possible, see the Secretary and have both Errors rectified.

Gen^l Roberdeau, I am told by M^r Stedman, has already interfered in the Business, and informs that Matters are now, thro his Means, so circumstanced as that no further immediate Steps will be taken. I wish Time wou'd have permitted my seeing him previous to the Departure of this; but since that will not be, I can only assure you of *his* having an early Visit, and *you* the best and most speedy Information of the Result of it. If nothing important is yet done, in Concert with him & Colonel Boudinot, who is sincerely disposed to afford his Assistance. I flatter myself every Thing practicable will be accomplished.

M^{rs} Bond tells me some persons have advised an Assignment or Conveyance to be executed to them for the whole or a part of your Estate. I can see no possible Good likely to arise from such a Step; and if the Advice is not to be charged to want of Knowledge. I should suspect something more amiss. My best Counsel (and it is disinterested) is that you go not into such a Measure uncautiously.

I feel the Honor done me by the friendly & flattering Invitation to Græme Park, & shall never be wanting in Inclination to accept it. Time, and the important Concern of others, interested to my Care and Attention, at present, continue Obstacles to that pleasure, and allow me only to assure that my best Services await your Commands, and that I am with the truest Esteem.

Your most obd^t
very hb^l Serv^t
Andrew Robeson¹⁵

Andrew Robeson to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philad^a July 12th 1778

Madam

Since I had the honor of writing you the last Week I visited M^r Roberdeau and had some Conversation with him relative to your Case and the Measures he had taken therein.

I find his plan is to petition the Chief Justice to allow a proper portion of the Estate for your maintenance after the Day assigned for Mr. Ferguson's Surrender is past and *he* is (by not surrendering) attainted—is adjudged guilty of the Crime of Treason.

'Tis true the Chief Justice [McKean] has power to make an Allowance and is not limited as to the Amount but at best this shou'd be the last resource. I mention these Things least the Intelligence (of the General's Interposition) in my Letter should have lulled you into a

¹⁵ *Andrew Robeson*, attorney at law, admitted to practice before the Philadelphia courts about 1773, d. May 28, 1781, aged 29 years.

Supposed Security and prevent your taking other and more proper Measures for the preservation of your Interest.

Mr. Matlack has been waited on and Alterations made agreeably to your Desire. I have not seen Col. Boudinot since We arrived together here—Nor yet know the Result of a Conference Mr. Roberdeau was to have had with him. Whenever I learn depend on the first Information.

Tomorrow I go for Allen Town on Business which will engage me near a Week. The moment of my Return will be devoted to your Service Happy and fully compensated if I can accomplish your Wishes or alleviate in the slightest Degree the Sufferings of one for whom I feel the highest Respect & Esteem.

Your obed^t humbl Serv^t

A. Robeson.

Decree.

Elizabeth Fergusson vs. Hugh Fergusson's Estate.

A List of sundry Articles of Furniture &c requested by Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson to be left with her for her Accommodation until the Hon^{ble} the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania do ascertain the Claim upon her Husband's Estate & take further Order therein.

Furniture of a Parlor.

Six old Windsor Chairs with their Cushions—
 one small dining Table—
 one large do.
 one small old Mahogany Table with the Set of enamelled Tea China usuall standing on it.
 one small marble Slab Side board, one glass Bowl
 one old Card Table
 one newer do.
 one round Breakfast Table
 three looking Glasses which usually hang in the Parlour with twelve small medal Plaister of Paris the heads of the Poets—
 twelve Pictures of Birds, 3 of them broken by Accident at the Time of Inventorying
 one very small book Case
 four old green worsted Window Curtains for the 4 Windows in the Parlour.
 one pair of Parlour brass And Irons Shovel & Tongs.
 two old Maps two Decanters 2 Tumblers & 11 Wine Glasses
 an eight day Clock a Harpsichord with its Stand & the Carpet usually on the floor

Furniture of a Bed Chamber.

one bed, one bedstead with Curtains, one Down Covering with a Cotton Tick, four Blankets, two pair of Sheets, one Quilt & a white Counter-pain, two pillows with Cases & a Bolster

one bed, one bedstead, without Curtains, four Blankets, two pair of sheets one Quilt & Counterpain, a bolster & two pillows with cases for the Servant Maid—
 two small Pine Tables with the old dressing Glass standing on one of them
 two small looking Glasses with Gilt Frames
 six Chairs with the old Arm Chair
 two small Pictures about 6 Inches by 3, 1 Death's Head do. 5 by 6—
 one Crocadile in Needle Work by Mrs. Graeme—
 two blue worsted Window Curtains.
 one Desk, one small Cabinet, one Wash hand Stand, one writing do—
 one Warming Pan
 one Japan Candlestick—
 one Pair of And Irons Shovel & Tongs
 one old Trunk—
 one fringe Loom & Stand—

Kitchen Furniture.

one fish Kettle—	one Spinning Wheel—
one Copper Plate Warmer—	one Reel—
one preserving Pan—	one Long Wheel—
one Stew Pan—	two Iron Pots—
one frying Pan—	one small Kettle—
one grid Iron	two Pot Racks—
one brass Kettle	two Washing Tubs—
one jack—	one Pail—
one cullender	one Pewter Bason
one Pewter Dish, one Turine for Soup with Dish, Queens Ware—	
one pair of Iron And Irons Shovels and Tongs—	
one Clever, two Kitchen Tables—	
one Dough Trough, three dozen Candle Moulds & one large glass Lanthorn.	

The books consist of four hundred Volumes many of which are not bound & of those which are 130 are the property of different Gentlemen whose Names are in them

Memo the three Stands were inventoried under the Appellation of Tables but are only 16 Inches square—The Plate Warmer also was inventoried under the Appellation of an Oven

fifteen Bushels of Buckwheat—
 fifteen Bushels of Indian Corn—
 one & a half Bush. of Salt—
 fifty Bushels of Wheat—
 twelve Bushels of Rye—
 forty Bushels of Oats—
 five Tons Hay—
 All the Flax valued at £4.10.0—

Pennsylvania ss.

The Justices of the Supreme Court have taken the foregoing Application into Consideration and thereupon decree that the several Articles contained therein remain in the Possession of Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson unsold 'till the said Justices shall take further Order therein, the said Mrs Elizabeth Ferguson having given Security to the State for the producing said Articles when & where the Justices afs^d shall award Given under our Hands at Philadelphia the 8th Day of October 1778.

Tho^s M^cKean,
Will: A. Atlee,
John Evans.

And now to wit 17th June 1780 Present the Chief Justice and Justice Bryan the before recited Articles are decreed to the said Elizabeth Ferguson absolutely and as her own Property for her Maintenance She applying to the Agents of forfeited Estates for the County of Philadelphia to have a just and true Appraizment made of the said several Articles and such Valuation being returned into the Office of Prothonotary of the Supreme Court with all possible Expedition.

From the Records p.
Edw: Burd Prot. Sup Cour.

Philadelphia County October 15th 1778

Mrs. Elisebeth Fergesan

Bought at the Vendue

to 1 easy Chair	1.11.0
to 1 Saraes 1 Candlestick &c.	3. 0.0
to 1 Bedsteadt	6. 0.0
to 1 drawer	4.10.0
to 1 Bedsteadt	4. 5.0
to 1 of do	5. 0.0
to 1 of do	1.12.0
to 4 Flower Cashes	1.10.0
to 4 Rush Bottom Chairs	4. 0.0
to 2 Red Sows and Pigs	9. 0.0
to 2 white of do	10. 0.0
to 1 pr. of small scales and weights	2. 1.0
to 1 Table Cloath	0. 9.6
to 1 marvel mortar	0.10.0

£55. 8.6

This is to Certify that M^{rs} Elisabeth Fergesan has Bought the above Enumerated Artickles at the publick Sale of Hugh Fergesan Estate Confiscated

Received the above Contents in full
George Smith agent.

Sarah Barton to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Nov. 18th. 1778

My Dear Mrs. Fergusson.

I make no doubt, from the friendship that has ever subsisted between us, that it will give you pleasure to hear of my safe arrival at New York; Especially when I assure you that I met with no difficulty or interruptions on my Journey in any respect whatever. But what most induces me to write, is to let you know that I have had the pleasure of Mr. Fergusson's Company to spend an afternoon and evening with me at different times; I do not flatter my friend when I tell her that he is extremely esteem'd & valued by every one that know him—Indeed his prudent conduct & retir'd manner of life Entitles him to your highest regard & affection; However unfortunate he may be in thus being separated from you.—We already appear as old acquaintances, our conversation generally tends one way. He is greatly distress'd on your account & what to advise him or you in so delicate a case is more than I am able; But whatever course you steer, may Heaven guide you! is the sincere prayer of your friend. Doct^r Bard's family Join Mr. Barton & myself in Comp^{ts} to Miss Stedman & yourself & believe me to be with unfeigned regard

your affect friend
S. Barton

Joseph Reed to Mrs. Stockton.

Philad. June 14, 1779

Madam.

I was lately favoured with a very kind & polite Letter from you delivered me by D. I recollect with Pleasure the scenes to which you so obligingly allude, scenes which no Change of Time or Circumstances can ever obliterate; and shall think myself happy in every Opportunity to manifest a grateful sense of the favorable Sentiments you express towards me. As to the Lady who is the Subject of our Concern I hope she & you will do me the Justice to believe I sincerely pity & sympathise with her in the Misfortune which have clouded her Prospects & embittered her Life & notwithstanding my Conduct has not been in all Respects understood my Wishes & Intentions ever were to soften her Calamities to the most of my Power. If all cannot be done, which the kindness of private Friendship may expect I trust it will be imputed to the Restraints of publick Character which sometimes clash with private Feelings.

It is a favourable Circumstance for Mrs. Ferguson that the Powers which can contribute most to her Relief are lodged in the Hands of Gentlemen of Tenderness & Consideration who have in all Cases hitherto shewn the most favourable Attention to Distress like hers, & it cannot be doubted they will shew a proper Liberality of Sentiment when her Case comes judicially before them.

Upon this as well as all other Occasions allow me to subscribe myself,
Madam,

Your most Obed &
very Hble Serv
Jos. Reed.¹⁶

Rev. William White to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Dear Madam.

I sit dōwn to give you y^e substance of a conversation between y^e chief Justice & me on y^e subject of your letter to him. With regard to your Fee simple in y^e Estate, he said there could be no doubt & having never heard it questioned he returned y^e papers accompanying your letter, w^{ch} I now enclose. He agreed with you y^t before y^e Estate is sold this circumstance ought to be clearly advertised, said y^t an order for that purpose ought to be given by y^e supreme court & all y^e Judges will not meet before Sep^r next. threw out what I understood to be an intimation of his intending to stop y^e sale till that time, saying he supposed it would not take place sooner & y^t he would speak about it; he advises you to send to y^e court when, [torn] "A claim" in a legal form (w^o he said any Gentⁿ of y^e Bar could draw for you) setting forth your being vested with a Fee simple in y^e Estate by your Fathers will, your marriage with M^r Ferguson &c. . . . I told him I presumed your Application to him as a matter of right need not prevent your application to another Quarter for favor—he said by no means & y^t you would have an opportunity as y^e Assembly will meet one of y^e last days in Augst he seemed unacquainted with y^e foundation of y^e difference in [torn] where y^e right of redressing you lay whether in y^t Body or in y^e Executive council; but observed y^t in a new-settled Government such differences will necessarily arise & agreed with me in opinion y^t if you had mistaken or sh^d hereafter mistake as to y^e Body to whom you ought to apply, none can be offended at it, because every one must be convinced y^t your object is not to recede on y^e merits of such a Question. In y^e course of our conversation y^e chief Justice took notice y^t by your letter you appeared not to know, y^t y^e possessor of an Estate, not having a fee simple therein, has no right to commit waste; I answered y^t undoubtedly he had not, but y^t there might be a difficulty in procuring compensation if he sh^d take y^t liberty; he replied y^t if such a person sh^d be committing waste, y^e supreme court on proof being made of y^e fact, were bound to issue an Injunction to him to forbear & on his persisting therein have y^e power of fining & imprisoning. . . . He spoke of y^e allowance to be made out of y^e proceeds of y^e Estates of persons attainted & said y^e supreme Court had adopted y^e rule pre-

¹⁶ Mrs. Fergusson has endorsed on back of this letter: "To Mrs. Stockton in Reply to a letter she wrote Mr. Reed about Mrs. Fergusson's Estate being forfeited—that part which Mr. Fergusson [torn] by an Intermarriage with her."

scribed by law in y^e case of those who die intestate—w^e allows to y^e Widow one third & in case of no children, one half; but said y^t from this rule they deviated in certain circumstances & mentioned y^e Education & rank in life of y^e party concerned as causes y^t had induced y^e Court to allow more than what w^d square with y^e said plan. . . . I thought it proper to relate this part of y^e conversation tho I sincerely hope you [torn] be intersted in it; but if it should come to that, I hope you will not consider me as obtruding my advice on you when [torn] y^t were it my case, I would not lose y^e fruits of my Father's [torn] for want of asking for them.

Mr McKean on reading y^t part of your letter relating to your grain &c said y^t he could give no particular answer, not recollecting y^e substance of y^e order of y^e Court in your favor—but had [torn] doubt y^t s^d Court on it's appearing y^t you did not receive y^e benefit intended, would rectify y^e mistake.

I have given you y^e Substance of this conversation as faithfully as my memory will permit & am, dear Madam

Your very humble Serv^t

W^m White¹⁷

Philad^a July 20th 1779.

P.S. I find from Mr Stedman y^t you have been informed y^e Vestry are going to let your Seat in y^e Church; be assured y^t there has been no foundation for such a report in y^e case of yourself or any other person.

Elias Boudinot to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Baskenridge Dec^r 28th 1779

My dear Madam—

This first convenient Opportunity that has offered since our arrival at this little Cott, I embrace with Pleasure, to inform you of the pleasant Jaunt we enjoyed on our return, with the happy sight of our friends here the very Evening before the change of weather. My little Susan¹⁸ often talks with great Glee of Græme Park; and her hospitable reception there affords a fruitfull Source for many an evening Conversation.

In performance of my Promise, have carefully searched all my Books on the Subject of Whitening Wax, and enclose the result of my Enquiries. If it answers no other End, it may prove a little amusement to you on a Summers-day in Manufacturing what you may consume in your own family, as the Process is not laborious.

The Army are encamped just in our Neighborhood; indeed the right wing is on my Land, and is troublesome enough, but as it is undoubtedly for the publick Good, we suffer in Silence, without a Complaint.

¹⁷ Rector of Christ P. E. Church.

¹⁸ Later wife of William Bradford, Attorney General of U. S. under Washington.

I have lately heard from my Brother and Mr. Smith's family who are all recovered from their late Indisposition and I hope will regain a good degree of Health.

No News stirring but the Sailing of two large fleets from New York within a few Days. Gen. Clinton & Lord Cornwallis are both said to be on Board. Their destination is kept a profound Secret. By the London Papers it also appears that the English army in the East Indies is totally cut off. This you have undoubtedly heard from the publick Papers, as well as the burning of the Ships in the Harbour of Hull on the Humber, by a Continental Frigate and a little fleet of armed Vessels, in retaliation for the Conflagration in New England. No Houses or private Property on Shore were suffered to be injured in the least. The whole Island of Great Brittain was greatly alarmed and much Confusion ensued, as the Combined fleets were still in the Channel.

I am in great Expectation of a Peace in the Spring, which I most devoutly & ardently pray for. I am greatly encouraged by finding the same Sentiments prevailing at Head Quarters.

I have been reading your Telemachus, with more Pleasure & Instruction than you can imagine. I could say many Things on that Subject, but for the present forbear.

I beg you to accept of the most affectionate Congratulations of the Season, in which I most cordially include your good Miss Stedman. May you both enjoy the substantial felicity of real Contentment and the superior Pleasures of uninterrupted Friendship through this dreary winter, and be happily prepared for that serene Peace & Tranquility which I trust in a kind & overruling Providence will crown another year.

I hope you have seen young Mr. Stockton, which is more than we have done, as he thought it best to pass through by the way of Elizabeth, and left us far to the Northward.

Let us hear from you by the first convenient opportunity, if it is but a Line to know you are yet in Being.

Am my D^r Madam

your Most aff. & very Hbl. Serv.

Elias Boudinot.

Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson.

Rev. James Abercrombie to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philad^a June 13, 1780

Nothing my dear Mad^m but a continual state of uncertainty and suspense with regard to your affairs, would have prevented your seeing or hearing from me before this time; for untill there was a prospect of something being absolutely determined with regard to you. I thought it would be only teasing, troublesome and unsatisfactory, to communicate the various and often opposite sentiments of your friends; but as every mode of application has now been tried, the interest of all your

friends exerted to the utmost, every argument suggested in which there was the smallest probability of success, and every measure been adopted which might possibly prove beneficial—and all to no purpose; but rendered entirely abortive by the firm inflexibility and resolute adherence of the Council to their late Resolve; I think it will not be difficult from collecting the different circumstances and answers which have been given *now* to form a conjecture what their mode of conduct will be with regard to you; and that you may be the better able to judge yourself, I shall here endeavor to recollect the various Opinions, Answers and Circumstances, which have occurred since I had the pleasure of seeing you:—

And first—Immediately on my arrival in Philad^a which was at six oClock I delivered all the letters agreeable to your directions—On Sunday Morning Mr B, the gentleman who promised to communicate the Sentiments of the Council with regard to you, waited upon me, with his and their opinion in writing of which the following is a copy—“With regard to Mrs. Fergusson it appears to me that “Evil is determined.” The late Resolve of the Assembly respecting that Lady is considered by the Council as of no weight or validity. It cannot be a Law; because agreeably to the Constitution it has not the enactment stile of a Law, viz: Be it enacted &c, and being under no obligation, they are not disposed to shew that lady any particular favour, because she has already received many favours; and she has risen in her requests, and has been troublesome and importunate, both in her own name and by her friends, and she not only corresponds with, but has also constantly remitted to her husband such sums at different times, as she may have saved by the levity of the government; that nothing but a Certificate from some Physician of her state of health so ill as to be unfit for removing, will prevent their extending to her the force and operation of their late Resolve; that their authority for this will be founded on a former act of the Assembly suspending the Habeas Corpus act; and putting it in the power of the Council to send away suspected persons.

From the above grounds and Circumstances it is my opinion that it will rather operate against the Lady to trouble the Council in her own name or by others with any Petition, at least untill the government shall proceed to put their resolve with regard to her into execution; untill which time she will seem to know nothing about it, to suppose that the resolve of the Assembly had operated to reverse the attainder and Confiscation of her Estate. It will then be left between the Legislative and Executive branches of the government, And tho’ the Council will not consider the Resolve as a law, yet I do not think they will be disposed wholly to neglect it, the only thing they can do, is to order her under guard to be conveyed to the enemy, and this will outrage the feelings of humanity, and the feelings of respect for the assembly in such a manner, that it will not be easy to put it in execution. Besides, as the authority for *Martial Law* lately declared is a *Resolve* of the assembly, it will not suit the council altogether to despise the authority of such *Resolves*, nevertheless I would recommend

it to the lady, to be ready both in mind and in Circumstances to depart if it shall be finally requisite."

After a little general Conversation, he read, and then delivered to me the above written opinions, with the strongest injunctions to profound secrecy, as the contrary would be attended with very ill consequences to himself; and said, that in a firm reliance on your and my honour he had ventured to communicate them; in compliance with his request and my promise therefore Madam I judged it improper to acquaint Mess^{rs} White, Meade, Smith, or any other of your friends with the Circumstance and make no doubt you will coincide with me, particularly as the Communication of it could not be attended with any beneficial Consequences, the affair has, and will remain with me *a profound secret*.

I should now Mad^m agreeably to my intention when I first sat down to write, enter upon the several opinions of your particular friends (who tho' differing in some points universally agree in this, that you should without doubt *remain on the farm at all events*;) but being unexpectedly interrupted during the time I had set apart for addressing you, I must beg leave to defer them untill some other opportunity.

In the mean time, I remain, Mad^m

Yours &c
J. Abercrombie¹⁹

Best Compts to Miss Stedman,

The Chief Justice has interested himself *wramly* in your favour; he has applied to the President but entirely without effect & was told that the Council having entered into the resolve from a mature consideration and ample discussion of the subject rendered and discrimination absolutely impossible; however, Mr. Mc'Kean has given the strongest assurance that everything which depends upon them shall be terminated in your favour, & has promised that in the course of next week he will call the court, and not only give up entirely the furniture of the two rooms and Kitchen, but will also make an allowance for the deficiency of the Wheat—Notwithstanding Mad^m things appear publicly so unfavourable with regard to the President & Council I can *assure* you from a *private* channel which I am not at liberty to mention in a letter that they have no serious intention of sending you off & mean to wink at your remaining on the farm after the ten days are expired, but as they are desirous of getting rid of the most obnoxious in that time, they would not give to you or any other individual in the same predicament a *public* assurance of exemption—but this is *entré nous*—

My Mother is in real distress for your Situation, & Mr. S. has lost the power of speech on that subject, & can only raise his hands & eyes to heaven—Mr. Meade would have wrote to you had not business prevented. There is to be a grand Town meeting tomorrow to send off *suspicious Persons*—This I think is the Adamant age of the world, was

¹⁹ *Rev. James Abercrombie*, son of Capt. James Abercrombie, who was lost at sea in 1760.

Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, née Græme. 303

I to preach a Sermon on any public occasion at present my Text would be from the Revelations—The *Devil* is come amongst you having great wrath, because he knoweth he hath but a short time.

Adieu

J. A.

Dr. William Smith to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Dear Madam

To a heart still bleeding with its own recent wounds, the new scene of distress that seems now to be opening upon you, is a most painful & overwhelming circumstance. I had heard nothing of the late measures of Council till I saw them in the papers, & truly shock'd I was, on your account particularly.

I intended to have done myself the melancholy pleasure of a visit to Græme Park immediately on this business, but could not make it convenient. M^r Abecrombie's going will answer every purpose, as he will be able to give you the views of your friends here & every necessary information.

Your letter to M^r Reed I delivered, & will briefly relate the manner in which I was receiv'd, & the Substance of what passed.

Upon your letter being presented, & being inform'd it came from you, he expressed himself rather in a hasty manner, intimating that you & your friends had been too importunate with respect to your affairs in general. I replied instantly (being a little touch'd with this introduction to the business) that however disagreeable & stale (y^e word used by him) applications made in your favour might appear to gentlemen in power; it was not the less interesting to you to have a just & favourable attention paid to them. He then proceeded to the perusal of your letter, making some strictures upon certain parts of it, not very essential to y^e main business. After having read it, he said, he did not know what, or whether any thing could be done for you: that the Council after the fullest discussion of the subject, & at a full board, had enter'd unanimously into the measure, & he did not for his part know, how they could discriminate. That he lamented your Situation, & was there only a single case of the kind, it would be an easy matter to determine it. He would, however, lay your letter before Council; but could give you no encouragement, unless the resolve itself should be rescinded, which there was no probability off. He then enter'd generally into the reasons which induced the Council to pass such a resolution; which indeed are very satisfactory with respect to those who actually carry on a correspondence of a political nature with their Husbands, in the present critical Situation of our public affairs. But that the resolve should extend to innocent people, who carry on no such correspondence, & are willing to disclose every letter that has passed & repassed, is highly unjust & cruel. Whatever offence I may have given, I did not fail to distinguish between the one case & the other to M^r R—d, & in every thing that concern'd your wellfare to speak with becoming freedom, tho I hope with respect.

What may be the result of this & other applications of your good friends here who have been assiduous, I do not pretend to determine. I must acknowledge, with a heart sincerely affected with your complicated distresses, that from every appearance of declaration of those who have the direct management of the affair, no indulgence is to be expected. It pains me, my Dear Madam, beyond description, to convey you such unwellcome tidings, & to believe that what you dread will be realised. As an Antidote to the seeming determination of the Council, I have made it my business to consult several Gentlemen of solid judgement on your case—who, tho they are not concerned either in framing or putting into execution these mandates, are nevertheless fully acquainted with the state of public matters, & know what are or ought to be the views & determinations of y^e Council in y^e case referred to.

These Gentlemen have told me, that they could not conceive that Council really meant to send you away. That the resolution was probably only meant to extend to some of the more obnoxious characters, but that as many such might be included as possible; you or your friends should not look for any condescension or even an appearance or relaxing at first, lest it might frustrate the whole design.

This however is only the opinion of Individuals, deliver'd to me in confidence, as such you will receive it, & give it such weight as you think it merits. I confess, it coincided with my own judgement form'd on y^e occasion, after mature deliberation. Upon the whole I still think, as I did at first, that you had better remain quiet where you are at all events. In y^e mean time no exertions of mine, however small my influence, shall be wanting, nor, I'll answer for it, of many of your other friends, who may have more, to do for you what can possibly be done. God grant that you may soon see a happy turn to your affairs.

I promise myself a ride to Græme Park as soon as business will permit—& am

Dear Madam, y^r Sincere fr^d & H Serv^t

W. Smith²⁰

Philad^a June 13th 1780.

Rev. James Abercrombie to Elizabeth Fergusson.

D^r Mad^m

M^r Meade and I would have had the pleasure of seeing you on Sunday last, had not that gentleman been seized with a Fever about an hour before the time appointed for our departure; he is better today, tho' still confined to his Chamber; and as it may be the latter end of this week or beginning of next, before he can pay his intended visit, I take

²⁰ Dr. William Smith, a graduate of the Medical Department, University of Pennsylvania, whose wife, Ann Young, a niece of Mrs. Fergusson, died two months prior to the date of this letter. In 1791 Dr. Smith became the owner of Græme Park.

this earliest opportunity to acquaint you with the business which occasions it.

Mr McKean the Chief Justice Saturday last call'd the Court and received the approbation of the Judges to the giving up *absolutely and entirely* the furniture of the two Rooms and Kitchen for which Gen. Roberdeau was bound, and which are now entirely at your own disposal. The order of the Court signed by the Clerk was given by him on Saturday evening to Mr. Meade. Mr. McKean would willingly have had an allowance made for the deficiency in the Wheat, but as Wheat at present is not to be procured, and money scarce, the Court were of opinion that as all the furniture was given up to you, the Wheat might be dispensed with.

Mrs. Coxe sets off for N. York in a fortnight—Mrs. White & family, Mrs. Delancy & Mrs. Jauncey are gone. From what I can learn, no public notice will be taken of your remaining on the farm. Brigadier General Stirling, commander of the Highland Regiment, in a late skirmish in the Jerseys, received a wound in his leg, which occasioned its amputation above the knee. I have purchased two quire of the best

^{s d}
common folio paper at 3/3 p^r quire; and shall send it by the first opportunity—Comp^{ts} to Miss Stedman—It is now past eleven o'Clock, and every body in the house asleep but

Your humble Servant

J. Abercrombie

Philad^a June 20th '80.

A Certain *great personage*, says, Nothing ever wounded his Sensibility so keenly, as the Consideration of the distress in which Mrs. Fergusson is involved—FUDGE!—

*Original Copy of Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson's Petition
to the Assembly.*²¹

TO THE HONORABLE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FREEMEN OF THE
COMMON WEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MET

*The Petition of Elizabeth Fergusson of Graeme Park in the County of
Philadelphia most respectfully represents*

That having seen an Act passed at the last Session of Your honorable House directing the immediate Sale of all confiscated Estates for the

²¹ At the end of the petition Mrs. Fergusson has written: "Mrs. Fergusson's Petition that was presented [torn] Assembly March 1 1781.

"This Petition was drawn by a Worthy Friend of Mine Andrew Robinson [Robeson], now in his Grave, July 9 1781."

On the back of the Petition the following:

"Names of Gentlemen who Exerted Their Influence in behalf of

purpose of paying off the Arrearages of the Army being informed and believing that it is but too likely deeply to affect your Petitioner by depriving her of her only Support She is induced as briefly as the Nature of her Case will permit to state it's leading Circumstances to your Honors.

Mr Henry Hugh Fergusson her Husband left America in September 1775 for the purpose of settling some Family concerns in Britain. And in the Month of March 1777 took his Passage from Britain to Jamaica thence passed to New York as the best method in his Power, and with a full Determination, of returning to Graeme Park aforesaid. The particular Situation of Things at New York obliged him to take the Opportunity of a passage with the Fleet which went into Chesapeake And with the British Army from necessity he came as far as the Swedes' Ford whence he wrote by a private Hand his Intentions of returning immediately to the Farm aforesaid but applying for permission to pass from the City was given to understand that it would not be granted him. At the same time he was informed that the Manner of his coming into Pennsylvania was such that his adventuring to his residence would be attended with great Hazzard. In the City therefore but totally unconnected with the British Army as to Service or Appointment he continued untill the Month of November following when he was induced to accept the post of Commissary of Prisoners and your Petitioner has no doubt on Inquiry it will be found he executed the Trust with such Kindness and Tenderness as will entitle

Elizabeth Fergusson when her Estate was Confiscated, and whose good offices she Remembers with Gratitude.

George Mede and
Elias Boudinot, my two
best Friends
Dr. Rush
Mr. FitzSimons
Mr Shewell, my Neighbor
Reverend Mr. Irvine Neighbor
Mr. Wyncoop
Mr Watts in the Assembly
Dr. Bond and Son
Mr. Roberdeau
Mr Powell
Robert Lollard
Mr Willing
Jon. Dickinson
Reverend Mr Hardwick
Dr. Phile
Mr Clymer
Dan. Clymer

Mr. Brachenige
Mr. Abercrombie
Reverend Mr White to Mr
Mulingberg, Speaker of the
House of Assembly
Mr Robert Morris
Henry Hill
Mr. Campbell
Judge M^cCean [M^cKean]
Mr Lewis
Francis Hopkinson
Thomas Mifflin
Mr Bayard Robinson
Thomas Franklin
Judge Bryant [Bryan]
D^r William Smith,
Reverend D^r Smith,
Thomas Smith,
Brother to the Reverend D^r Smith
Mr Wilson, [Lawyer.]

him to a Degree of Credit with every humane Mind. Further than this he has at no Time to the Knowledge of your Petitioner aided the Enemy in the slightest Degree [torn] to her [torn] Britain and that [torn] situation.

During these Transactions the Name of M^{rs} Fergusson was by the honorable Council inserted in a Proclamation and he in the result attainted. After which all the Estate of your petitioner was seized by Agents appointed for that purpose and the present part thereof save only a small portion (lent to her for keeping of House) absolutely sold.

Under these Circumstances she applied first to the honorable Council who afforded her no kind of Relief. She then applied by Petitions to former Houses of Assembly who seemed disposed to shew an indulgent Countenance to her Cause and on the last Petition a Committee being appointed to inquire into her Case and reporting favorably a Resolve passed *recommending* to Council to Grant the prayer of her Petition. This however is considered by them as not in the least obligatory and she has since remained in a State of the greatest Uncertainty and Distress subject to the Terms which an Agent may dictate and at present is subject to the payment of a Rent as well as the publick Taxes.

perhaps may it please your Honors all the Difficulties which attended her and which would but weary particularly to recapitulate, had been borne in silent resignation had not the recited Act of Assembly alarmed her and as that necessarily obliges her to trouble this honorable House she has taken the Liberty of stating that part of the Case relative to M^r Fergusson's Conduct, & prays leave to pursue it so far as more immediately concerns herself.

The Estate of Graeme Parke was devised to your Petitioner in Fee Simple by her late honored Father Doctor Thomas Graeme—and having never been made over by any Conveyance to M^r Fergusson nor having had any Child by him—The Claim of the State can exist no longer than during their Joint Lives, admitting the Proclamation its' fullest Force against him tho' she is informed by Gent^l of Eminence in the Law that not being a Citizen of America at the Time of the Declaration of Independence he could not be a proper Object of A Proclamation this Point however she does not mean to press to your Honors being led to it almost imperceptibly from the Nature of the subject. A Variety of Causes have contributed to bring the Estate into great Want of Repairs in almost every part & scarce any person chusing to lease it on account of the uncertainty of their Tenure of course the [torn] and the Taxes proportionable to the [two lines torn]

to [torn] and embarrass your Petitioner. She has been necessitated to take up Sums of Money on Loan and finds herself notwithstanding the utmost Frugality and Care involved in Difficulties which daily multiply And these attend her (& which serve much to embitter them) upon a valuable Tract of Land A patrimonial possession ample if in her own Controul for her Support and which in the strictest Truth & with the utmost Confidence she can say *She* at least has done nothing to

forfeit on the Contrary every thing in *her Power* to deserve from the Hands of her much loved Country.

She begs leave therefore to state to your Honors that on a full Consideration & Inquiry had of her Case it will appear that the publick Sale of M^r F's Interest in this Estate under all its Circumstances cannot be expected to command a Sum of Money at all important to the publick. On the other Hand the depriving her of y^e Farm is at once to destroy the sole Support of One who (must she repeat it) will not be found to have deserved Evil at their Hands, if the best Wishes the most uniform Declarations and the constant Train of little Services which her Sphere of Action has enabled her to perform are of any avail in evincing it.

May she hope therefore that this honorable House taking as they always do Wisdom for their Guide and Justice and Humanity for their Motives will be pleased in such Manner as to them shall seem expedient to relieve her from the Operation of the recited Act of Assembly and by a new Act or as to them may seem more proper benevolently relinquish the publick Claims of her Estate and enable her to make such Disposition of it as may be necessary for her future Support. She flatters herself their own Feelings will never reproach them for the Act And Neither Heaven nor Man "grieve at the Mercy."

Elizabeth Fergusson

Græme-park February the 20 1781.

Dr. William Smith to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Dear Madam

Your fav^r; inclosing letters to M^r [Sharpe] Delany & M^r [George] Gray I had the pleasure of duly receiving. These Gentlemen upon my Delivering them your letters, & entering upon the subject of your petition, expressed themselves favorably to your wishes, as have also many other Members of the House, with whom I have convers'd upon the Subject. The prevailing idea of most of those I have spoke to seems to be, that tho' the State have an undoubted claim upon the estate, yet, from the trifling pittance it would yield the State, & the unhappy situation you would be reduced to, was that claim to be rigidly enforced, Government ought to relinquish their right. Your Petition has been once read in the House, & will have another reading & discussion in its turn with other business. It contains every thing necessary. The present is a critical & important period to you. You must be in a most painful state of anxious suspense, from which I hope you will soon be agreeably relieved. There is I think every reason to hope & expect this from the present complexion of affairs, if the members are sincere in their declarations. A short time will determine the matter. Be assured, your friends are not inactive, & have the most sanguine hopes.

I have spoke to the Executors once & again about the money due from the State to M^r Young's estate. They have done & I believe will do all in their power to get it. There were difficulties formerly in settling the matter, but much more so now, that the public finances are in so

distracted a situation. In short was the Account plain in itself, you will not wonder that the money is not obtain'd, when you are told, that the Treasury has for a long time been & continues to be in so exhausted a state, as not to be able to answer the most pressing demands upon it, for the immediate & most essential operations of the Army &c.

M^{rs} Clymer continues very ill, & I believe will not hold it long. Her Brother the Gen^l daily visits her. They seem very affectionate.

Yesterday commenced a new Ora in American Politicks by the final ratification of the Articles of Confederation, which were signed by all the Members of Congress from every state in the Union. There were rejoicings of various kinds thro' the Day & at night an exhibition of Fire-works, Several houses & ships illuminated &c &c.

My bones are yet sore with the pressing & pounding received the other night at the College, where I was fool enough, with thousands of others, to go & see a play performed, called *Gustavus Vasa*. It was as much like a Bull-beat as a play. Noise, Shouting & ill Manners of every kind & denomination, was all the entertainment. There must be an amazing turn for dissipation at present in this city, by the vast crowds that resort to such places. I really think it would afford Government a great revenue, if they were to open the Theatre, & employ a Company of Comedians on public account at once. You would say perhaps, it is not quite so congenial to the Spirit of a rising & virtuous Republic; yet I am persuaded if the experiment was made, much of our stern republican virtue would forsake us. It is thought, this will be a very vigorous Campaign, especially to the Southward. Cornwallis has made rapid movements into the interior part of the Country. No body knows his object, as he seems to avoid fighting. He is certainly playing a very hazardous game, & if unsuccessful, will loose his former laurels & perhaps be shot by y^e Sentence of a Court Martial for his rashness, in penetrating into y^e Country far from his Shipping with a force inadequate to his purpose.

Compliments to Miss Stedman

I am, y^r Fr^d & H Serv^t

W. Smith

Philad^a March 2^d 1781.

Henry Hill to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philad^a April 11, 1781

Madam

I have been honor'd with two of your letters in Feby and March and only deferr'd my acknowledgments 'till your businees under the notice of the Assembly should be compleated. That being now done I hope gives more satisfaction than by your last letter seemed to be expected.

You will be enabled to judge fully of the title you are now vested with by perusing the enclosed papers, if you think it necessary to take that trouble.

The House discovered so favorable a disposition towards you at the

last reading of the bill that I proposed to Mr. R. Morris the inserting the clause introduced in the first draft and left out of the bill presented by the Committee, for reasons specified on the back of Mr. Wilson's letter enclosed; but Mr. Morris suppos'd that wou'd bring forth an opposition to the whole, and declar'd both he and Mr. Wilson were now satisfied the bill as it stands would answer all purposes.

Thus Madam I have endeavor'd, tho' no lawyer, to set your rights in a proper view, and I take for granted the words in the bill "during her Natural life" are void of efficacy—a mere sound—and in their consequence can only raise doubts with ignorant or timid purchasers.

It was declared by several Members in Assembly at passing the bill that you should be enabled to dispose of the lands at pleasure, and it was the true design of the Bill.

I have the pleasure to be with sincere regards

Madam

your Most obed^t and
humble Serv^t

Henry Hill²²

P.S. Should you experience any Material defect in the present bill, another attempt can be made next Session of Assembly in Sept^r to get it rectified.

Dr. John Redman to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philad^a feb^r 26, 1782.

The night before I was born.

My Dear M^{rs} Ferguson.

After the most mature deliberation I am capable of, respecting the purport of your letter, the sale of your lands; I can hardly satisfy myself that I am qualified to give my advice determinatly in y^e matter; I shall therefore only mention it as my opinion that you ought by no means to part with y^e Mansion house, and that you ought to keep two hundred acres with it, or as near that quantity as you possibly can, for this plain reason among many others, that if hereafter you should choose or find it necessary to part with it, it will sell much better with that than with any lesser quantity of land. I am the more satisfied that my opinion is in some degree well grounded that my dear good old wife concurs in it, nor should I go far beyond the truth if I say she first suggested it; and I know her judgement and opinion is generally agreeable to you, at least you'll receive it as the dictates of our affection and real wishes for your good.

I am sorry to inform you that she has been for some days confind with a Cold and Rhumatism very painfull in both hands and feet and one shoulder, which she bore with her usual patience and resignation, and

²² *Henry Hill*, a prominent merchant, whose importations of Madeira Wine was well known to Philadelphians. At this date he was a member of Assembly.

rather more than one could expect, under the absence of her dear child and the little prospect we have of seeing her soon. This circumstance, as well as the consideration of your affair, led my mind [undesignedly at first] to contemplate on what S^t Paul says in his 1 Epistle to y^e Corinthians, 7th Ch. from the 29th to y^e 33^d verses: which from the effects I felt it had on myself, I'll presume to recommend them to y^r perusal and attention, though I can scarcely suppose they have escaped your especial notice till this time.

I thank God for his goodness. I can now inform you with pleasure that my dear wife is better, though still confined to her bed most of the day. She and Nancy join in the most cordial respects to you, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Stedman, with Dear Madam your affectionate friend and Servant

John Redman.

P.S. I thought before this time to have wrote to you on the subject of your East india Mythology, etc., and the only apology I can make is y^e following, viz: That Time flies rapidly, various duties urge vehemently, and the day of human life [as dated by David and daily experience] is far spent with me, and the night of *death* comes on apace, which opens a boundless prospect before us; and that grim old *gentleman* gave me a smart shock lately on my better side, to put me in mind that every portion of Time is a winged messenger that carrys a good or evill report to the higher court of records, and therefore it behoves us to catch each moment as it flies, and if possible transmit with them bills of exchange of such validity as may be answered, not with depreciating currency, but with gold tryed in the fire, which may enrich us here, and serve not only for present expenses but future Exigencies in another and far better country to which we are hastening. Nevertheless if God gives life and time I hope to find a more real convenient season than Felix did, to perform it with y^e sincerity of a friend and Candor of a Christian.

Tuesday evening. feb. 15th O.S.

26. N.S.

Elias Boudinot to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philadelphia March 5th 1782

My dear Madam.

It was not among the smallest Pleasures received by a Letter from Græme Park, that my good Mrs. Ferguson was satisfied with the reasons assigned for my disappointing her at so critical a period. It gave me real uneasiness to find that you failed in the intended Sale, not because I think the Consequences will prove very disagreeable, but because I know you had set your heart on it, and I do not wish to have the smallest addition to the Afflictions of the Afflicted.

I cannot possibly approve of any Sale that will separate the long House from the Mansion House, unless it should be during the Time necessary for the Purchaser's building a proper farm House. I have

spoke to Mr. Meade, and we mean to insert the substance of your Advertisement in the Books of the Several Land-brokers in this City. Many People who are Speculating apply to these offices, who never look at a News Paper. If this wont do, another attempt about the first of Aprill to sell at Vendue perhaps may answer the Purpose—tho' as I shall then be in Jersey it would suit me best about the Twenty fourth of March. This is supposing a Sale to be necessary. But would it not be a better Scheme to get some friend to undertake the leasing out the farm, with proper Covenants and restrictions, for a number of years, subject to all Taxes. I think this would fix your Income to a certainty and secure your Capital during Life. If you wanted a principle sum for to discharge arrears, this certainly may be raised by collateral methods, which would not injure the Capital or render your future Subsistence uncertain or subject to diminution. But as I determine to see you if possible before many weeks, I shall defer the Subject.

The enclosure of Mr. Young's Letter gave me great Pleasure, as it was at once a further Evidence of the friendship & confidence of my amiable friend. I greatly pity this young Gentleman and heartily wish he had followed the solid advice of his valuable Aunt, who certainly judged very rightly of his affairs, but I still hope his apparent good sense will yet enable him to surmount all his difficulties & strike out into some important Scene of Life. To avoid the Stage would be an evidence of his Judgment & Prudence, as it can promise him no good unless his abilities were uncommonly great, and even then the substantial reward is inadequate to the risque of every other good.

My dear Miss Stedman is very obliging to be grateful for a remembrance that yields so great a Pleasure in the Exercise. I was really elated during the reading of several Lines of your Letter, but alas! the Mountain brought forth a Mouse without a Metaphor.

Mrs. Jackson made me promise to make her acknowledgments for your politeness in remembering her slight civility to you when in Brunswick.

I must beg an Excuse for this scrawl, as I write with two or three Ladies chatting in the Room.

Mrs. Boudinot & Susan wish most earnestly to be considered as attached to the friendly Circle at the Park, and present their best wishes for every real happiness to attend them.

I am my dear Madam with the greatest respect & Sincerity.

Yours most Affect^ly

Elias Boudinot.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson
at Græme Park

Hannah Boudinot to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Elizabeth Town Jan^{ry} 2^d 1784.

Your letter, dear madam, of the 11th of October, did not reach me till near the end of December. I am sure long before this, you must

pronounce me rude and ungrateful. Your attention to your friends, is so unparelled, that the contrary, must appear odious in your eyes; and I am pain'd that you should so long remain unacquainted with the reason, of that seeming neglect and inattention to you.

The flower pots, which adorn the breast Work of my Parlour, declare to me every day your Taste, Industry, and Goodness, which I find you will not suffer to be confin'd to the Parlour, but have extended them even to the chamber. I thank you dear Madam, for the fringe, which I have not yet received. I wont tell you that I am sorry that you took the trouble, because you say it amused you; but I feel myself under too great obligations to be express'd on paper.

permit me dear Madam to wish you a happy new year; may this, with every other of your life, be crown'd with those blessings that Heaven has in store, for the good and Virtuous: we have the promise of a faithful God, that they shall be rewarded in this, and the life to come.

we are again settled in our own habitation, after an exilement of seven years. and, shall be very happy to see you and Miss Stedman here; can't you make it convenient to pay us a Visit in the spring? it will do *you* good, and give *us* pleasure. My dear susans health is rather better, she request me to mention her to you and Miss Steadman, with sentiments of the warm affection, esteem, and gratitude.

My best wishes to Miss Stedman and believe me d^r Madam, with the greatest

Esteem
Your sincere
Friend
H. Boudinot²⁸

M^{rs} Ferguson.

Elias Boudinot to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philadelphia July 19th 1784

My dear Madam—

How shall I apologize or what shall I say to my dear Mrs. Ferguson, in order to excuse my not calling on her on my way Home. I confess I am Mortified & disappointed. After the receipt of your kind & affectionate Letter by Dr. Bard, I left Home with a determined resolution of spending a Day at Græme Park—but alas! how vain are human resolutions. The special Business I came upon is unexpectedly deferred for several weeks, and a considerable company have attached themselves to me, which obliges me to return by the way of Burlington to finish some Business there, which has totally deranged my whole Plan. The only Consolation left me is that I am very speedily to return to this City, when I do engage myself to spend a Day, if not two or three with you at your agreeable retreat. Mine & your disappointment is

²⁸ Hannah Boudinot, wife of Elias Boudinot, and sister of Richard Stockton, the Signer.

something compensated, by being informed that Mrs. Redman & family are to pay you a Visit to-morrow, and to have too much Company at once is almost as bad as to have none at all. Mrs. Roberdeau also means to visit you in a few days—and he is really as Life from the Dead.

I have been long contriving ways and means to accomplish your desires with regard to the Sale of your Lands. I wrote you fully on this Head about 4 months ago, and was surprized not to see any Advertisement in the Papers for the sale of it. I find by your last Letter that mine has never got to Hand, altho' I directed expressly to be left with Dr. Phyle. Mrs. Boudinot also wrote you during the winter, which I hope got safe to hand. When I see you next, we will perfect some Plan for the Sale of the Land. I have been looking round to endeavour to find some Persons who would spare a few hundred Pounds for some years, that you might take up the money on it to answer your present Exigencies, but have not met with any success. I shall continue the research till I see you.

We are happily & comfortably restored to our old Habitation where our domestic felicity would be greatly increased by the Presence of our excellent Friends Mrs. Ferguson & Miss Stedman. Could you not spend one week with us this fall. We are like to part with our only Susan. We shall be alone. We shall rejoice in the Company of worthy Friends. It will be conferring a favour. It will be an honorable notice of us country-folks, or if you please Villagers. Our Doors shall be wide open & our Hearts still wider. You must not refuse. You love your friends and I know you love to increase their Happiness.

Mrs. Boudinot begs the most affectionate remembrances. She is overwhelmed with the necessary Provision for her Daughter, whose Health, blessed be God, is exceedingly restored.

We are going to give her away in September next—this at least is the present purpose.

Our Kind Love to Miss Stedman, whose Health & welfare we greatly rejoice in.

I have the Honor to be, my dear Madam, with very great Sincerity & Esteem

yours most Affect^{ly}

Elias Boudinot.

Mrs. Ferguson.

George Meade to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philadelphia March 19th 1791

My dear Madam

Herewith you have Inclosed two letters for you, which I opened to prevent an unnecessary repitation on my Part. Mr. Budinot has been so full that I have only to repeat that you should not loose a moment in returning the bearer my Servant, I would have him return ab^t half way so as to be in Town 8 or 9 o'clock on Monday morn'g as we must then give a final answer to Mr. Ball. if D^r Smith can fulfill what he

offers it would be the best offer. how far he may be able to do so, I cannot pretend to say. You must be decisive in your answer [torn] clear letter cannot be effected. I went to Mr. Ball on other business & brought the Place on the Carpet. I then went to Mr. McCtenachan, who assured me his friend would not give any such Price.

Mrs Meade & all my Family join me in our best office to Miss Stedman & you & God direct you for the best—says my dear Madam

Your affe frd & devoted hble Sr.

Geo. Meade.²⁴

Get from Miss Stedman a direction
to her fr^d in Norway. I took it down
with a Pencil & it has got rub'd out
in my Pocket.
Mrs. Eliz. Fergusson.

Dr. William Smith to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philad^a Nov^r 9th 1791

Dear Madam

Your favor by an accidental conveyance I receiv'd a few days after its date. Tho I had heard, before the receipt of your letter, of the Jamaica Man's intention of visiting G. Park, I am not the less obliged for your early information on that head. M^r Mead pointed the gentleman out to me at the Coffee House on the Saturday evening, telling me that he had given him a letter to you & that he was to set off next morning. There is something curious in the whole transaction. The gentleman arrives, waits upon M^r Boudinot, who informs him the place is sold, & to whom, & y^e terms: adding that he believ'd I was Sick of my bargain, & would sell it upon very reasonable terms, for y^e Same perhaps that it cost.

What could be M^r Boudinots views or reasons in Suggesting such an idea, I know not. Certainly it did not originate in the least hint of the kind from me. Nor could he have any well grounded suspicion that there would be any difficulty on my part with respect to a compliance w^h the terms of the Contract. I think there has hitherto been no deficiency on that Score. He must either have thought me a Simpleton, or that I was unable to pay for the place; for what could induce me

²⁴ *George Meade*, a prominent merchant of the city. Mrs. Fergusson has written the following "Memorandum" on this letter: "Should Mr. Fergusson and I ever live together or Should he ever See these Letters, let him See if he chuses to read them, that I did not rashly sell my Farm, Mr. Bendar is the very man who advises it most, And he in a Former letter which is here though the Sitting of Congress would raise the price of Land now tho Mr. Fergusson has no legal Right in Græme Park yet I would Submit my Conduct to Him in an affair of this Importance as much as tho he had never forfeited these Rights had Land got lower I must gone on this Parish for a Support.

E. Fergusson."

to purchase & sell again without any advantage, immediately, before I had even paid for it myself.

Another Singular circumstance is, that the gentleman should so far take this unfounded information for reality, as to neglect a personal application & proceed to visit the place, & endeavour to obtain information from others, which he could readily have had from the proper person at one word.

As the gentleman was not introduced to me, & neglected to speak to me himself; I had no notion of running after him: & therefore to cut the matter Short, I informed a M^r Pratt with whom I knew he had some acquaintance & connection, & requested him to inform the gentleman, that I had not the least intention to sell the place, & that nothing but a very handsome profit indeed would possibly tempt me; at the same time mentioning my price; a Sum that would, I thought, frighten him at once from the purchase, or in case he did purchase, would have very amply compensated me. I further desired M^r Pratt to inform his friend, that any application that was intended, must be made in a few days, as I was on the point of Leasing y^e place for a term of years, which was to be concluded in 3 or 4 days; after which it would not be in my power to sell, but under y^e lease.

Since this I have heard nothing further on y^e business, from which I conclude the gentleman has dropt all thoughts of the thing: and I am as well pleased that he has. Without waiting or enquiring for an answer, I have proceeded to let the place on a lease to a couple of good industrious germans, kinsmen of M^o Gilbert my Landlord, & hope in a few years to have the place in compleat order: tho it must be a work of time.

With Comp^{ts} to Miss Stedman

I am, ever yours

W. Smith.

P.S. The following is I believe an accurate Statement of our Interest Account from June 1st to Nov^r 1st viz:

Interest on £2500 from June 1 st to Nov ^r 1 st	£62..10		
From which deduct Interest on £215..7..10 paid M ^r Bring-			
ham on y ^r Acc ^t June 17 th to Nov ^r 1 st	4..16..11		
		57..13..1	
Remitted you by Strayhorn	£37..10		
P ^d Y ^{rs} Int ^t on M ^{rs} Stedman's Bond	7..16		
Garden Seeds	.12		
Medicines & Ticket in Lottery	2.. 4..8	48.. 2.. 8	
Ballance due & no remitted		9..10.. 5	

You will please to send me a receipt in full for Interest up to Nov^r 1st 1791—from which time there will remain due the Sum of \$2284..12..2.

Inclosed are a few lines to Stranghorn by way of notice of my having let the place to another Person, which you'll be kind enough to send to him.

Sarah Barton to Elizabeth Fergusson.

The Sincere pleasure your letter afforded me My Dear, and only Surviving friend of my Youth, is not to be Express'd; I have Omitted no opportunity of inquiring after you, & have frequently seen your letters to my Niece Sally Bond, with affectionate remembrances of me; But your Immediate address, has brought to my mind a retrospect of past scenes, & a review of the many Diversities of fortune we have both Experienced, which naturally Excited pleasing, & painful, reflections. But as they are past & done away, & I trust we have Each of us acted the part assign'd us by Providence, with integrity, & in the best manner we were able, I hope we shall, the remainder of our lives, Experience that peace, & Tranquility of mind, so Essential to happiness. I am delighted to hear you tell my Niece, that you find your present Situation happier than you Expected; That you would be resign'd I had no doubt of. I am truly Sensible of the Blessing I enjoy, in being placed in the Midst of my Dearest Connections.

Could I look forward to anything beyond the present time, & would please Myself with the Idea of seeing you next fall, & of takeing lodgings in your Neighbourhood for a few weeks, that I might once more enjoy the happiness of your Company, & that of my Dear Miss Stedman before I quit this Transitory Life; But my Brothers health is so precarious, that I am not Certain whether I shall dare to leave him, Even on a visit to my Daughter M^{rs} White, who is Settled in Bridge Ton Cumberland, where I had proposed to Spend the Summer; His Complaint is a constant Dizziness in his head, & sometimes so Severe, as to make it unsafe for him to walk Cross a room; He has been better this some weeks past, which gives us hopes that the Spring may relieve, if not entirely cure him, Especially if we can prevail upon him to make an Excursion in the Country, & even then it may be necessary for me to accompany him, as M^{rs} Gillespie cannot be Spared from her family. I have the happiness to assure you of my perfect recovery, only that I am more liable to take cold than formerly, which I make no doubt is Owing to my long confinement, & the great care I have been oblig'd to take of myself Since. My Brother never knew a person recover as I have done from so Severe an Illness, a Strong proof of my excellent constitution, which I hope I ever have, & always Shall be grateful for. My Brother & M^{rs} Gillespie Join me affectionate

Compliments to you & Miss Stedman, & believe me my Dear friend with every Sentiment of love & Esteem

Yours

S. Barton²⁵

New York feb^r 15th 1794.

²⁵ Mrs. Fergusson has added the following: "M^{rs} Barton's maiden name was Sally Denormandie she is widow to the Reverend M^r Barton of the Episcopal Church at Lancaster who went of with the British and died at new york. If My Dear M^r Powel will just Show these letters to M^r Duchee as the Second Letter mentions the family."

M. Stedman to Elizabeth Fergusson.

My Dear Madam

Your kind favor of the 15 of Septemb^r I had not the pleasure of perusing till five days after the date of it, but why or what Occasioned the detention is unknown to me, But this I can assure you of, That Nothing but the Consciousness of how very small import my Scribbling was to you, that prevented an immediate answer, most sensibly feeling the force of your so kindly interesting your selfe, respecting the Health of my Dear grand Daughter Peggy; And am happy to inform you she is now pritty well & attends her writing School of afternoons tho she still continues very pale & thin. Our determination of taking her into the Country, from a Combination of difficulties and other Occurrences intervening, week after week was post paid, till the Weather became so Cool & she getting better the design was given up tho in Opposition to our full intention & my warmest Wishes. I hope it will please a gracious Providence there will be no cause to regret it.

Believe me My Dear Mrs Fergusson a Sigh of Sympathy has not been wanting on the recent Occasion of Mr. Youngs Dissolution, well knowing the tender affection you, from his Infantile State have on all Occasions testified with a Maternal Assiduity. Alas, to us poor Mortals who see through a Glass darkly, his lot in life appears to have been a painfull one. But the inexhaustable Stores of Mercy felicity & goodness can never be diminished, & he is now it may be, in possession of Joyes that will never fade or be liable to change, a source from whence only true Comfort and Consolation under all our trials & troubles here, and be devised.

You enquire My Dear Madam if I have read Pains Age of Reason, my answer is in the negative because from the Accounts of those who have, it is a most detestable Composition and Diametrically Opposite to Holy writ, which will I trust ever through time, be my Polar Star, guide, Comfort and sure hope. For tho Heaven & Earth pass away his Word can never fail. But have you My Dear Mrs. Fergusson since the French Revolution dipt into the History of the Clergy, by the Abbe Baronet, a refugee in Britain, if you have not, the most tragical Scenes are yet to be unfolded to your view, & are such, as sure I am they will Harrow your very Soul & Curdle the Crimson fluid in your viens.

We have had frequent Alarms with respect to that fatal Malady the Yellow fever and some have died of it. But thank Heaven the Weather has been so cool for the season that our fears are disapated. But fall and Nervous fevers have proved uncommonly Mortal this Year. Mrs. Abercrombie has lost her youngest Brother with the latter, a Young Gentleman of about 20 or 21 years of Age, and perhaps one of the handsomest Young man in the City, of whom she was tenderly fond.

Betsy Stedman never writes me a line, nor do I hear any thing about her, but what you are so kind as to mention in Yours, a Conduct so Singularly Abstracted & Strange I am at the greatest loss imaginable to account for. I would write to her (tho I am not fond of extorting

Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, née Græme. 319

favours from my friends) if I could Suppose it was her Wishes—while doubt remains I must beg you my Good Madam to be my substitute with regard to love & affection as well as conveying through your more agreeable Medium my kind regards & Compliments to Mrs. Todd with an assurance that at any time I shall be very glad to see her in Town.

The enclosed was brought to our House on Wednesday last, but from, or by whom I know not, no London Ships arrived yet. Peggy begs a tender of her best and most respectable regards, and with real affection I am Dear Madam

Yours

M. Stedman.

Philadelphia Octob^r the 10. 1794.

Elias Boudinot to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Rosehill Nov. 15, 1794

My dear Madam—

We are again just got settled in our Winter Quarters, and among the first of my Correspondencies I am to acknowledge the receipt of your kind Letter, rec^d just before I left home tho' of an old date.

I have had greater difficulties with regard to your Telemachus than I had expected, arising from several causes, among others the extravagant sum required last Spring by the Printers here, to be advanced in the first outset, made me write to our Country Printers, whose proposals in answer differed so greatly as to lead me to the determination of engaging them in the service. I accordingly left this last June with the expectation of having the printing done in Jersey: but on my entering into particulars with them, I found too late that the Items they meant to charge in addition brought it to the same final Sum. In short, I found none of them would undertake it, without an advance of One Thousand Dollars, and would not partake in any manner of the Risque of Sale. This Fall has increased the demand of every Tradesman from the depreciation of Money and the extreme Scarcity of Hands, so that I am reduced to the necessity of postponing it for the present. This mania for extravagance cannot last long. It must soon come to an end. It will certainly work its own Cure, when I hope Things will gain their natural Channel, and we may go on with rational hopes of accomplishing an End.

I long to see you, but it seems fated that I shall not have that pleasure soon. Mrs. Boudinot is with me and tho' not stout, is as well as usual—still threatened with her side, but not yet dangerously. She joins me in expressions of the most affectionate regard.

Mrs. Bradford has taken her Winter Quarters in the City, but is tolerably well.

Do let me hear from you, if it is but a Line to know how you do &c. &c. I suppose you see the News Papers and know what is going forward on the great Theatre of Europe. The Governments there all in Flames. The French with an Enthusiasm that portends more than human Effects,

overrunning all Dutch and Brabant Flanders, liek the Goths and Vandals once did the Roman Empire. There is no Calculating on Events—human sagacity is at an End. The Power of Rome with her Apostolic Head is at an End. A regiment of british Cavalry have formed the Life Guard of his Holiness. Thus the last Times approach, and the kingdoms into which the Empire was divided begin to hate the whore or Hierarchy that they themselves aided in erecting. What will be the issue God only knows, and He alone will finally direct.

I am my dear Madam
your very Aff.
Elias Boudinot

Addressed:
Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson
at the
Billet

Ann Maria Clifton to Elizabeth Fergusson.

Philadelphia
June 27th 1795

Dear Madam

I have set down to make an apology for a neglect that is almost unpardonable, in not sending you M^r Charles Stedmans letter at the time you requested it. When I wrote, not having yours immediately before me, it intirely slipt my memory, nor did it ever occur to my recollection till M^r Meade shew'd me your Letter to him, receiv'd a few days since. I blush to think how very remiss I have been, and indeed in not writing to you for so long a time, but I hope the candor of my confession will procure me your forgiveness. with this I shall send the Letter and hope it will not be too late for your writing, as the William Penn is the only London Vessel that has sail'd as yet, there is one that leaves this place the begining of the next week, but I do not know the name of the Ship. M^r Meade will, it is most probably give you better information than I can.

With respect to M^r Stedmans being the Author of the History you mention I am not certain, I have heard it ascribed to his Father, but I fancy he had not so much industry and the peculiar circumstances of the Son confin'd by Ill health, to a retired situation in the country, on a small pension, makes it very probable that he would turn his mind to a subject on which he was himself well inform'd, and on which he could procure the best information, both from his intimacy with the American refugees as well as his connection with the opposition in the British Government. but before I close this letter I will endeavour to learn from a gentleman who' I imagine is able to answer the question wether he is or not.

I hope you have found the Locket you wrote to me about in the winter, and that you are perfectly satisfied that it never was put in the paper that you left for me, indeed the thing was impossible or I should have

noticed it, as the paper with the *other* was put into my hands by my Sister the moment I return'd home. I shall allways feel concern'd whenever I think of it if you do not find it, as I am sure you must regret the loss. I am very certain it never came to me but I wish it had as it would then have been quite safe.

Do you not my dear Madam intend ever to see your Friends in town again, are they all to be deserted for the want of friendship of one family. surely you pay them too [torn] compliment to sacrifice to them [torn] and all the rest of your Friends Pleasure. I fear you will have a call on your Friendship to participate and console the afflictions of one of your best Friends M^{rs} Meade her Son Richard is in a very declining way his constitution is certainly gone, and there is no doubt he is in a confirm'd consumption tho the Family do not seem to think so, M^{rs} Mead is very unhappy but still flatters herself he will get the better of his complaint, but I am too fatally acquainted with that disorder to be mistaken. They leave town next week for their Place which as it is a very high situation may restore him for a little time but he will never pass another winter I fear. I have just left myself room to tell you that my sister is in better Health this spring than usual, that I am extreemly well and hope the wet Season has not been a disadvantage to you, pray present my compliments to Miss Stedman and M^{rs} Todd and assure yourself of my greatest regard and respect

Anna Maria Clifton²⁸

My compliments to M^{rs} Smith & Miss Anna when you see them.

I am informed M^r S—— is the Author of the American History you Mention.

Addressed:

Mrs. Fergusson
at the Billet

²⁸ A daughter of John and Eleanor Clifton, b. Nov. 1740, d. April 1811. By her will she created a trust fund, to teach boys to sing as a choir in the orchestra of Christ church.

(To be continued.)